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Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli-Palestinian Self-Rule Agreement Signed

Mubarak Speaks on 'Historic' Moment

NC0405095594 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 0819 GMT 4 May 94

[Speech by President Husni Mubarak at the signing ceremony of the Israeli-Palestinian Self-Rule Agreement at the International Convention Center in Cairo—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Yasir 'Arafat, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, dear guests, ladies and gentlemen: In the life of nations, there are historic moments that cannot be deleted by time or shrouded in obscurity. These moments always remain, handed down from one generation to another. The major developments witnessed by these moments have a deep and radical impact on the strategic interests and the basic rights of peoples.

In the life of the Middle East peoples in particular, there are unforgettable historic moments, moments that brought much hope and many dreams after much pain and suffering. They allowed the peoples of the region to continue their march toward peace and along the road of prophets, may God's peace and prayers be upon them, the prophets sent by God to spread virtue and right in the world and to cleanse hearts of hatred, vice, and rancor. God Almighty created man on earth to entrench the foundations of peace, to build and reconstruct, not to burn or destroy. Man was created to fill the universe with light, knowledge, and happiness and to eliminate coercion, fear, and darkness.

Today we are experiencing one of those historic moments as we see the signing of the agreement on the establishment of the Palestinian authority in Gaza and Jericho as part of the first phase of the Palestinian-Israeli peace. This proceeds from the Declaration of Principles that was signed in Washington. This step, therefore, is a culmination of hard and strenuous efforts. Many sides did all they could to turn general rules and principles into detailed, precise provisions that can be urgently implemented and can effect a revolutionary transformation in the reality of the Palestinian and Israeli peoples.

The Palestinian problem proved difficult to solve for 45 years. Time only added more complications, hatred, and suffering. Many thought it had turned into a chronic problem from which there was no way out and that its obstacles could not be overcome. Calls of despair and despondency spread against the peacemakers and the instigators of hope. Many people thought peace was an unattainable objective.

But God Almighty provided the peoples of the region with a group of people who believed in their God and their mission on this blessed earth. They remained steadfast in their call for peace and sincere in their endeavor to achieve a just and honorable settlement that preserves a party's dignity and right to a secure life and protects its legitimate rights and interests in accordance with the laws accepted by the international community after centuries of experiments, successes, and failures. It was not strange to see this march on the course of peace led by great men and noble strugglers who have experienced war, lived through its horrors and atrocities, and witnessed the killing, the dismemberment, the burning of land and crops, and the spreading of ruin as far as the eye could see. These things were the result of war. It was natural for these heroes to turn their minds and beliefs from the war and its horrors and evils to peace with its hopes and broader horizons that would heal the wounds, resist annihilation, end the suffering and pain, and allow man to continue his noble mission worldwide.

This faithful group of heroic men undertook the task of working for peace to their last heart beat and of devoting their lives and hearts to turning the dream into a reality regardless of the sacrifices. They realized with their sound vision and deep wisdom that peace was the sublime objective of all peoples and that war was futile even if it brought a temporary victory, achieved an illusionary security, or changed balances. Ultimately it incites revenge and motives for retribution. But a just and honorable peace alone is the right course according to which everybody can live in security and safety.

The Arab people in Egypt were among the first to believe in peace as a goal and a course and as a moral commitment unparalleled by any other commitment. The Egyptian people have never been reluctant to sacrifice their lives, blood, and livelihood for the sake of a just and comprehensive peace that all the peoples of the area can enjoy and through which they can break the terrible vicious circle of bloodshed and the loss of sons and fathers. This was reflected in this people's steadfastness after the glorious October War and their firm decision to stand by peace when the late President Muhammad Anwar al-Sadat called for peace [applause] in Jerusalem in decisive terms that entered and touched every heart when he said: I did not come to you to conclude a separate agreement between Egypt and Israel. This is not part of Egypt's policy. The problem is not Egypt and Israel. Any separate peace between Egypt and Israel or between any one of the confrontation states and Israel will not establish a permanent and just peace in the entire region. Even if peace is achieved between every confrontation state and Israel without a just solution to the Palestinian problem, this will never establish the permanent and just peace demanded by the entire world today.

This, gentlemen, was Egypt's view of the problem and the way to solve it at that time. This policy continued to constitute its people's commitment throughout the years, even after it regained its territory and completed its freedom. The effect of all this made Egypt more capable of directing its attention to supporting its other brothers in their efforts to realize their hopes for a just and honorable peace, the peace of the heroes and the bold who can overcome the past and present barriers and move on to the future. Egypt has never felt that it was alone on this path, although it was lonely and often faced many difficulties. Egypt's faith that justice will triumph has never been shaken. It believes that ultimately the voice of peace and reconciliation will surge with a roaring force throughout the Arab world and in Israel.

The world's advocates of peace will support the peoples of the region in these hard years. They will back them and their right to look forward to a new era in which the peoples of the region get rid of fear, hatred, and suffering.

If other steps remain to be taken to achieve the comprehensive peace to which we have committed ourselves, this does not belittle the importance of this step and achievement. Each step consolidates the ones taken before it and paves the way for those to follow. The success scored by the peaceloving forces through the agreement we are signing and documenting today must encourage us to implement it honestly and in good faith despite all the difficulties we expect to find along the way, difficulties that we consider only natural. The step should also prompt us to redouble our efforts to achieve tangible progress and without delay on the other negotiating track. By doing this, we will be fulfilling our commitment to our brothers in Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon and we will be performing our responsibilities toward ourselves and our neighbors in the region in which we live.

Guests and friends, our belief in the victory of peace has never been shaken for a moment. And it will not be shaken. Our struggle for peace has never stopped for a single day. It didn't take place one year and then not take place the next. It has been a continuous commitment and sharp observers can see that at no time in the past 10 years has it lacked a tangible addition that would help us to mark this achievement, which will continue to inspire our moves for other courageous steps soon.

It remains for me to point out that some of those events left greater impact than others along the road of peace. One of those developments was the convening of the Madrid peace conference through the commendable initiative of the United States and Russia, which volunteered to sponsor the conference and found broad response from all the parties to the conflict and from all the peaceloving forces in the world. The conference laid the foundation stone on a long road that was full of thorns and roses at the same time.

I believe that it behooves me to express the sincerest thanks and gratitude to U.S. President Bill Clinton and his efficient aides led by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. [applause] President Clinton kept the problem at the forefront of his attentions and priorities despite the urgency of other problems and their daily pressures. This undoubtedly stemmed from his belief that peace in the land of peace and the cradle of religions is the cornerstone of world peace and stability.

The Russian Federation under President Boris Yeltsin and his aides [applause], and we particularly mention Foreign Minister Kozyrev [applause], played a tangible role in supporting the peace efforts and in contacting the concerned parties at the critical times.

The EC played a role that cannot be belittled. Members exerted every effort to boost the peace process. They acted separately and collectively in the direction that led to completing the steps for the comprehensive and just settlement. This EC policy and concept was not unusual because they realized the mutual links between security and peace in the Middle East and stability and prosperity in Europe.

I do not need to express our thanks and gratitude for the Arab brothers who came to participate in this historic celebration, which we do not regard as a mere ceremonial and formal occasion, but as a living symbol of the entire Arab nation's choice of the peace course and its commitment to achieving it. [applause]

Due thanks also go to all the other friends who came to join this bright occasion appreciating its importance and expressing their support for its objectives and significance.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am confident that all of you join me in addressing the sincerest expressions of appreciation and pride to President Yasir 'Arafat and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. [applause] They have shown much courage and feelings of responsibility and proved that they have a far-sighted view around which has crystallized their determination to attain the goal amid strong challenges and pressures that are no secret to anyone. This is the essence of patriotic and moral commitment.

I salute with them this group of men who stood with them all along the course. These men enriched the process and added to it with their sound thinking, sincere work, and creative minds. I mention specifically Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and President Yasir 'Arafat's companions [applause] who shouldered the responsibility with him and performed it perfectly. [applause]

Now, my friends, we can cast our eyes on the far horizon and look toward a secure and happy future where the dream turns into a reality and the hope that has thrived in hearts becomes a tangible reality.

Doors have been opened, convoys have been set off, and the historic march toward peace in the land of peace has begun.

Palestinians and Arabs everywhere, Israeli supporters of right, justice, and life, march forward together. Do not be afraid. Get together. Do not be divided, so that your efforts will not be wasted. It is time to shake hands, cleanse hearts, reassure souls, bring interests closer, and to remove enmity, which spread in the region when time turned its back. It is time for us to direct our human and natural resources to what God has legitimized for us. It is time to reclaim land, mend what wars spoiled, build bridges, and spread development and progress in fields, farms, and factories. It is time to redress wounds, uproot hatred from souls, replace the tendencies of evil and revenge with love and fraternity, and plant roses instead of barbed wire.

This is not the choice of an individual or a limited group. It is the option and indisputable, unanimous decision of peoples. It is not the choice of one people to the exclusion of others. It is the choice of all peoples and all those who care for their present and future and realize the challenges.

If a people decides to have life, fate will inevitably respond; dark will inevitably vanish and shackles will inevitably break [Arab proverb].

Let us proceed with God's blessing on the road of peace and good neighborliness. May Gad guide us and protect our march. Peace be upon you.

Kozyrev Conveys Hopes for Future

NC0405133194 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 0859 GMT 4 May 94

[Speech by Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev at the signing ceremony of the Israeli-Palestinian Self-Rule Agreement at the International Convention Center in Cairo—live; Kozyrev speaks in English with simultaneous translation into Arabic]

[Text] I would like to start by congratulating the Egyptian president on his birthday. I think, [applause] Your Excellency, that your foreign minister did not give you a present. But I believe that your being here amid this audience and this process to sign the agreement illustrates the prominent and leading role in the peace process played by your country under your leadership. I believe that the signing of the agreement in Egypt is very significant, because Egypt paved the way for reconciliation in the region. I hope that on your next birthday we will meet in the same hall with the same gathering to witness the signing of not only the Gaza-Jericho First agreement, but an agreement involving all the territory [applause]. By then we will have laid the foundations for three new pyramids: First, agreement on self-rule for the Palestinians; second, agreement for peaceful coexistence and mutual respect, and I hope the Palestinians and Israel will cooperate; and third, comprehensive peace in the Middle East. We all believe that we can achieve a comprehensive peace soon by making progress in the coming dialogue and negotiations.

I believe that President 'Arafat and Prime Minister Rabin know how much Russia wants peace in the region. This region is near to Russia. The trip from Moscow to this region is a four-hour flight, while the journey from Moscow to Vladivostok takes eight hours. We are eager to achieve peace and stability in the region. Russia would like to be a sponsor of this process along with the United States. I hope that this day will mark the start of the implementation of this agreement. There will be difficulties on the way but they must be overcome with good faith and resolve.

I congratulate you on this great effort today and I reassure you that Russia, the United States, Egypt, the European Community, and the whole world will be on the side of Israel, the Palestinians, and Arabs in the peace efforts. Thank you. [applause]

'Abbas Views Significance of Peace

NC0405123794 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 0903 GMT 4 May 94

[Speech by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas at the signing ceremony of the Israeli-Palestinian Self-Rule Agreement at the International Convention Center in Cairo—live]

[Text] Mr. President, gentlemen, today we have completed a difficult stage of negotiations on formulas, articles, and contexts to begin a more difficult stage in which to translate what we have achieved on paper into reality. We were lucky enough to meet today in Egypt, the country with the greatest and most profound experience in war and peace, to begin together the first steps on the path that we hope will lead us to our dream and the dream of generations, the dream of achieving a permanent, just, and comprehensive peace.

I register here for Egypt, the land of civilizations, its people, Government, and president, its essential and effective contribution to what has been achieved, a contribution that encourages us to be optimistic about the future when we all proceed together side by side to complete the process and provide the guarantees for its success.

Gentlemen, our people have chosen the path of peace and expressed this choice with the most sophisticated means of action. Their glorious struggle for peace was the subject of admiration by the entire world just as their steadfastness in the struggle for existence was an unparalleled miracle in this and any other age.

As we take the first and most important step on the ground, we realize that peace is not made through agreements and documents alone, but gains its vitality and viability by its ability to achieve the interests of peoples and by the extent to which it can match their daily needs and its relationship with their dreams. With this understanding, I would like to speak in the language of the future and address my words first to our Israeli partners, the other party to the equation and the other party with which we have long fought and with which we are trying now to shape new relations to end past calamities and tragedies to benefit peace and tranquility today and in future.

I tell our partners: You have fought long but even at the peak of your strength you never felt peace and security. Every day, every moment, there was something that disturbed and frightened you. This is because strength, however great it may be, can never cancel the feeling of the harm of isolation from your geographical and human environment and can never prevent the pain from the constant bleeding in your body and the body of those you are fighting. We have stretched our hand out to you to get rid of all the pains of the past.

You, and among you there are some who support the peace we are creating at this critical time and others who are against it, you shoulder the major part of the responsibility for the coming success or failure, God forbid. As we see it, your responsibility begins by getting rid of the old thinking that is full of fears and doubts and the endless search for guarantees, which affects the core of the interests of others, to replace them with a creative approach to tomorrow's requirements, in which your partners in the peace course will feel reassured and confident of the usefulness and permanency of cooperating with you. This has nothing to do with a new language we find ourselves speaking but with a new spirit that is reflected in behavior on every level.

You have achieved peace with Egypt, the biggest country in our Arab world. You are today trying to achieve peace with the Palestinian people, whose cause it is, a people at the center of the conflict. I do not doubt for a single moment your mature awareness of a self-evident truth that says that peace in our region cannot become firmly established and guaranteed without completing its interconnected links so as to see it also achieved with Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan in the clearest terms and fairest contexts.

While we feel increasingly confident when we hear about serious actions to resume the efforts to achieve peace with our remaining brothers, we do not hide from you our fears for everything that has been achieved if it is not completed soon with its other Arab links.

It has probably become clear to you and to the whole world that the essence and dimensions of the peace with the neighboring countries are not confined to the geographic scale of the regional map and its borders but are much deeper, because it should be a peace with the great nation, from the Ocean to the Gulf. Fears will remain and an inadequate, if not nonexistent, sense of security will remain if we do not put this at the center of our attention and efforts.

On such a day, I address our Palestinian people. Among them there is not one family that has not lost a martyr recently to the convoys of martyrs who have fallen since the start of the conflict and throughout every chapter and whose precious sacrifices have built the bridge to the peace station. The children of the intifadah and their sacrifices [applause] have ripened this historic moment. We tell our vibrant, alert, and very cultured people that we feel your pulse, share your fears, and understand your observations on the formulas we have reached between Oslo and this day. But with you we see an opportunity for a new coming together to wage a new experiment. How great it is to start with difficulty on the ground and how much more miserable it is to continue to easily adopt verbal slogans and remain confined by their restrictions. We will meet on the same ground to share in the sweetness and bitterness of our new life, to struggle to rebuild the society and homeland that has been exhausted by the long and bitter war and that has planted many illnesses in its heart. We will struggle together for the dream that will never leave us as long as we live, the dream of freedom and independence, the dream of the beautiful life for our children and grandchildren, the dream of the hopes and assuredness on the soil of our homeland, the dream of enjoying dignity under our sun and skies, the dream of the creative contribution to the building of our region and the consolidation of the pillars of its stability, and the dream of the creative cultural link with our Arab and Islamic nation and with the whole world, without wars and their calamitous requirements.

Yesterday when Nelson Mandela [applause] dropped his voting card in the ballot box we heard him say: I feel a dream has come true. Today we say we feel that the march toward our hopes has effectively begun. Still at the beginning of the road, we extend an intimate and loving call to our brothers who either reject, have reservations about, or have fears regarding our steps: Come to the house so that we can build it together, close the windows of evil together, make the best of the opportunity, and besiege the chances of danger with all our force.

We sincerely call for a national mobilization where efforts and capabilities are integrated to achieve our present and future missions on democratic bases and with a view toward building modern institutions that will ensure for our pluralistic society the best factors of progress and development and boost our national aspirations, only the first steps of which we have achieved, with all the factors that will allow them to be realized. Let us work together for the sake of repatriation, for Jerusalem [applause], on which we are about to enter negotiations, and for fulfilling the requirements and tasks of the final stage of the peace process in all its aspects.

The homeland we are hoping for is one for all the Palestinians. Let us build it on its soil, not on impossible slogans that only distance us from it.

On this day we address the new world, which is being shaped in a new climate and under new considerations, saying that the opening of the file of peace in the Middle East was the most courageous step toward building a new international order, or let us say new international life, on the rubble of the Cold War and its scores of destructive regional and civil wars.

The Middle East, which burdened the conscience of the world for half a century, troubling international interests and placing them at the mercy of instability, deserves further international efforts to entrench its new ambitious image. Any serious and effective contribution to ensure the stability and growth of this part of the world is, in essence, a vital contribution to the stability of everybody's interests in their every form and content.

Finally, we extend our appreciation to Warren Christopher [applause], who is joining us in celebrating these historic moments, and it pleases us to convey through him our greetings to the American people, the U.S. Administration, and President Clinton, who continued to work to achieve peace in our region.

I also greet Mr. Kozyrev [applause]. We are pleased to convey through him our greetings to the people and Government of Russia and to President Boris Yeltsin.

It is perhaps also useful to refer with appreciation and loyalty to the Government of Norway and to remember late Foreign Minister Johan Holst and his creative efforts [applause].

We do not forget the positions and initiatives of every nation, each working as much as it could to support and sponsor the peace process. I particularly refer to our fraternal Arab Maghreb countries, which played a major and creative role in embodying the Palestinian character and its political reality, and also to our brothers in the Arabian Gulf countries, who, from the beginning, joined us in the peace process, on both the bilateral and multilateral tracks. I call on them today to translate the slogan of frankness and reconciliation into action on the ground [applause].

I also salute our brothers in Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon, who are moving with us along the road of peace with great confidence and the fraternal cohesion that embodies the nation's interests and aspirations.

As we prepare to embark on the return trip to the homeland, we do not forget green Tunisia, its hospitable people, and its president, who protectively embraced us in the hardest of times and who honorably and fraternally supported us [applause].

Mr. President, this is an additionally good act by you on your birthday. We congratulate you [applause]. We do not only say thank you; we will engrave this act in our hearts and will plant it on the boundaries of our homeland so that the generations will remember your position and noble work. Peace be upon you. [applause]

Peres Says Conflict With PLO Over

TA0405103894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0933 GMT 4 May 94

[Speech by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at the signing ceremony of the Israeli-Palestinian Self-Rule Agreement at the International Convention Center in Cairo—live, in English]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: Nowadays you can watch how birth is being given on the television. Now you have had the occasion to watch it. What really happened is that we finished our negotiations by 0230 in the morning, and apparently we were short of five minutes. We apologize for taking these five minutes from you. [applause]

We had a dream before we had a map. Now we have a map and a dream together. Thank you. [applause]

Your Excellency, the President of Egypt Husni Mubarak [applause]: Happy birthday! Blessed may be your way from being a pilot in the defense of your country and becoming a captain in the peace of the region; [applause]

Prime Minister Rabin, that his people appreciate a decision and a leadership in a very difficult time;

Foreign Secretary of State Warren Christopher, thank you for your tireless support; [applause]

Foreign Minister Kozyrev, thank you for the positive assistance; [applause]

Foreign Minister Godal of Norway, thank you for being a Norwegian; [applause]

My dear friend, 'Amr Musa [applause], whose smiles and wisdom helped so much to overcome the hurdles of the negotiations, thank you very much; [applause]

Chairman 'Arafat, our partner in a very difficult journey: We did it! [applause]

Your Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, the reason for the conflict in the Middle East was the unhappy encounter between the Jewish and the Arab renaissance at the same time, at the same place. Thus, for almost half a century, we experienced blood and hatred, terror and war. Today we declare that the conflict is over. [applause]

Today we have agreed to promise mothers and children, Arabs and Jewish, that no finger will pull a trigger or endanger the lives or to affect the dignity or happiness of their children.

Less than a year has passed since the night in Oslo where Israelis and Palestinians gathered secretly to initial a dramatic turning point in the history of their peoples. What seems in the eyes of many to be utopian becomes today a reality. I recall the strenuous days and endless nights needed to cross the valleys of mistrust and suspicion. And, again, we did it!

We refer to a dual commitment: the moral history of our nation and the need of the people in the region. Our position stems from a moral code: Govern yourself; don't rule others.

So, the agreement today is not a submission to the threats of weapons; it is in reality a return to the values of our heritage.

We do not want to be the governors, the judges, or the police of the Palestinian people. It is for the Palestinians to elect their leaders, nominate their judges, appoint their policemen. All we wish is to become their friendly neighbors. [applause] All we hope is to see them as our good neighbors. Today we welcome you, the Palestinian people, as neighbors. [applause]

We must look ahead. We state earnestly to the Arab people, that you and us, we need a Middle East, a geography of peace, a territory of prosperity, a community based on market economy, responsible diplomacy, and a land that will regain its fertility. We assure that we shall not stop here; that we shall reach peace with Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and make it comprehensive and durable. [applause]

We shall continue to negotiate with the Palestinians for a permanent solution. Relations are more telling than borders. We are mapping today our relations, so that we shall be able to map borders in the future. With the exception of war, the greatest menace is the poverty. Nobody should pay for follies and belligerencies. We can put to the right use our available resources, the water we possess, the land we own, the knowledge we acquire for the benefit of our people—a Middle East for the people and by the people.

The story of modern society is not a national separation but an economic cooperation. No nation can dominate, and yet every nation must compete and ably so. We know already that computers are mightier than guns. We know that the new opportunities reside in the campuses of the scientists rather than in the camps of the armies.

Ladies and gentlemen, the future is inevitable, just as peace is inevitable, and for all of us. A year ago, a meeting like that of today would have been perceived as unreal. Yet today it is a reality. Alongside the magic river that held the cradle of Moses, at the foot of the pyramids that withstood the test of time, to see such a distinguished and unique gathering like you and us here today carries a new promise.

The president of Egypt; the foreign ministers of the cosponsors, the United States and the Russian Republic; as well as the foreign minister of Norway; respected delegates of Arab countries and Europe; sponsors and donors from all continents: We thank you for the sense of a fresh beginning, for a new image and a new era for the people of our region.

Much work still lies before us. Many are the enemies and many are the obstacles on the road of peace. Yet, if we do all we must, we can make this concrete beginning into a brilliant future. And then, when looking upon the horizon, we shall know that the reddish lining is not of blood but of a rising dawn.

In the words of prophet Isaiah: In place of brass I will bring gold, in place of iron I will bring silver. Violence shall no more be heard in your land, nor war, nor destruction within your borders. [applause]

Long live peace to all of us! Thank you. [applause]

'Arafat on Extending Hand to Israeli People

NC0405113594 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 0945 GMT 4 May 94

[Speech by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at the signing ceremony of the Israeli-Palestinian Self-Rule Agreement at the International Convention Center in Cairo—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful the compassionate. And we wished to be gracious to those who were being depressed in the land, to make them leaders in faith, and make them heirs [Koranic verse followed by applause]

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the fraternal Arab Republic of Egypt, Mr. Christopher, Mr. Kozyrev, Israeli Prime Minister Rabin, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, and my brother His Excellency Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa:

In the historic moments that we are witnessing today on the land of fraternal Egypt, I extend to you, Mr. President, and to the government and great people of Egypt, greetings and appreciation of your constant concern and continuing efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the entire region. This is Egypt's fate and real role as determined by its position in the heart of the Arab world and the Middle East and between the three continents, Asia, Africa, and Europe [applause]. Many happy returns on your birthday today. [applause]

You are now carrying the banner that is building the structure of peace. Without your constant contribution and role, it would be difficult for us to see such an achievement. To you, Your Excellency the President, and through you to every Egyptian on this good and towering land, I extend the greetings of every Palestinian in our land and abroad, those who look with hope toward a new era of genuine, lasting, and comprehensive peace. I also thank Foreign Minister brother 'Amr Musa. [applause]

I also extend greetings and deep thanks to the sponsors of the peace process, the United States and the Russian Federation, and to President Bill Clinton and President Boris Yeltsin, who are represented here today by His Excellency Secretary Warren Christopher and His Excellency Minister Andrey Kozyrev. I also thank the states of the European Union, the nonaligned states, the Islamic states, and the African countries.

Their persistent efforts had a great effect on overcoming the obstacles and on bringing views closer so as to complete this first step in the Palestinian-Israeli peace course and from it, God willing, move to the Arab-Israeli peace.

I also remember with reverence and respect our friend and minister, Norway's Johan Holst, who died with great hopes of sharing in these moments of implementing the first step of the agreement. He participated quietly and effectively to achieve it. I welcome here His Excellency Minister Tore Godal, appreciating his important endeavors and the Norwegian Government's constant efforts and good moves to serve the peace process in every sphere.

In the name of every Palestinian man and woman, I look with great confidence and hope at our brothers and our people's friends who are participating in this historic occasion and I think of those who could not come. I thank them all and stress to them that our people today in the West Bank, Gaza, holy Jerusalem, and in all the diaspora are looking more than ever toward your role so that this first step in Gaza and Jericho will become the real start for completing the peace process, guaranteeing our Palestinian people's legitimate rights, achieving justice and equality by ending the occupation of our Palestinian territories, and building the Palestinian future based on democracy, development, and progress, a future linked with the tradition of its glorious Arab nation.

Today, brothers, belongs to all our brothers who have helped to make it. It belongs to our brother President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali, the president of green Tunisia, who provided the Palestinian people's leadership with all the facilities for achieving their rights. The day belongs to our brothers in the great Arab Maghreb, especially His Majesty King Hassan II and his good efforts, President Lamine Zeroual, chairman of the Arab Maghreb Union, and the other brother members of the Union. It also belongs to our brothers in the Arab Gulf. I particularly mention the role of His Majesty King Fahd, custodian of the two holy mosques, [applause] and all his brother leaders of the Gulf countries. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's planes are today carrying the Palestinian security forces who are returning to the homeland. This highlights the constant support and brotherhood, the ties of which will never be broken, God willing.

On this day, too, I salute fraternal Jordan, His Majesty King Husayn, and Jordan's Government and people, who share with us a common date and a promising future, God willing.

I also express to our brothers in Syria and Lebanon and to President Hafiz al-Asad and President Ilyas al-Hirawi the confidence that the ties of fate binding us will be strengthened because we are acting on the firm basis that peace will not be just if it is not comprehensive. Peace will prevail over our region when the resolutions of international legitimacy are applied to all the Arab fronts and when the eras of occupation, the eras of wars, and the cycles of violence end.

I also salute the brothers in Yemen, Sudan, Iraq, and Libya for embracing their Palestinian brothers since the departure from Beirut.

Allow me to congratulate the people of South Africa and struggling President Nelson Mandela and [former] President de Klerk [applause] for the victory achieved by the South African people in the democratic experience, when it vanquished injustice and racial discrimination to build a future based on tolerance, equality, justice, and respect for human rights.

Respected ladies and gentlemen, we are signing the step to mark the start. It is a step linked with other steps in the West Bank during the coming few months so that our people can, for the first time, see the real horizon for establishing the just peace.

The withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho is the prelude; it opens the door to removing the entire occupation and to establishing new relations between our peoples, Prime Minister Rabin, between our Israeli and Palestinian peoples, for the sake of our children and yours. [applause]

Completing this step required Herculean courage after long periods of war and violence. The coming stage will require still greater courage, a thorough insight, real farsightedness, and firm patience so that we can establish a firm and unshakeable peace, the peace of the bold.

The Palestinian people have lived on their land throughout history. They helped to create civilization and raise the voice of peace, the voice of the only all-powerful God, the creator, the lord of the universe and of the three heavenly religions, calling for praising God's blessings, giving, and his name on this sacred land.

The people of Palestine, based on their deep historical heritage, today express their loyalty to the just and comprehensive peace. Thus our people demonstrated faithfulness to the heritage of their successive generations; to the sweat of the Palestinian people, mixed as it is with the soil of the earth; to the Palestinian maker's determination to build life and let it flourish; and to the creativity of the Palestinian intellectual, who always believes that history will never go off its track no matter how much time passes. [applause]

Our people, gentlemen, have struggled long to see the beginning of the peace era. For peace to be achieved, our people offered dear sacrifices. To achieve this recognition of our national rights, the eyes of bereaved mothers and of children who were raised to know that love and loyalty to the homeland are the highest values of life looked forward. Also looking forward to this were the prisoners, whose hope of freedom, for themselves and for their people, is renewed every day, and the refugee camp residents, who never lost confidence that a new era of freedom would come.

Nothing has gone in vain. Alive and great nations make their wounds, the sacrifice of their martyrs, and their long suffering the motives for the future and the banners for building a new era based on justice under the shadow of tolerance and coexistence among the three religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam over centuries.

We have offered a great deal to reach this day. We confronted patiently and persistently every hindrance and doubt and we always thought that every step in the peace negotiations, despite all the pain, was a move away from the era of war and violence nearer to the era of equal rights and the implementation of international legitimacy. While today we celebrate the signing of the first step, we must all realize that all those concerned about peace, including our people at home and in the diaspora, measure the seriousness of this step by one criterion: honest and precise implementation and the change it will make to the reality on the ground. It is the right of our people and of everybody concerned with genuine peace to point to the measures isolating holy Jerusalem from its surroundings and preventing the Palestinians from entering it and the other sacred Islamic and Christian places. These measures obstruct life in the city, paralyze its economy, and separate the sons of the same family.

All this is incompatible with the spirit of the just and real peace, with the course of equality, justice, and human rights that we are aspiring to adopt as the basis for free and positive relations between the two neighboring peoples, as Mr. Peres said, between the Palestinian and Israeli peoples. The suffering of the city of Hebron following the bloody massacre cannot continue. It is still suffering encirclement and siege both inside and outside it.

The continuation of the settlement and the attempt to impose the fait accompli in Jerusalem and in other areas conflict with the essence, clauses, and the short and long-term objectives of the peace process.

The boldness of peace prompts me today to adopt the policy of frankness on peace without which we cannot end the age of confrontation and start the age of constructive and real cooperation. The Arab peoples and millions of Muslims and Christians will observe our practical steps tomorrow to pass judgment on the possibility of coexistence and of opening a new chapter in normal relations. All those who want the success of the Palestinian-Israeli peace experiment realize the importance of the great steps facing this peace, including the settlements, the refugee problem, holy Jerusalem, and the need to solve it later, as we agreed, so as to help create a new era of protecting the future of the entire region and ensuring openness between their peoples and countries on the basis of respect for the rules and resolutions of international legitimacy.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am confident today that the Palestinian people will receive this new stage with a desire to provide a real opportunity for building real peace with the same desire it has for its national identity and its independent national being. Our people extends its hand to the Israeli people to start this era and end the whirlpool of violence for the sake of our real interests today and the interests of our coming generations.

Coexistence is possible. It is inevitable. It is our common fate to live together as neighbors governed by the rules of justice, democracy, and national and human dignity.

Hatred, bigotry, and extremism will only lead to more squandering of our creative and brilliant resources. We are proposing the alternative today, namely equality, joint building, and respect for every people's right and independent choice and security.

Today again I also address our great Arab nation, leaders and peoples, on the threshold of the first step of the return to the homeland and stress to them that their pain, sacrifice, and determination to uphold our Palestinian people's national legitimate rights prompt us today to strengthen our fraternal ties in every field so that peace for Palestine will, as always, be a peace for all the Arabs.

Yes, gentlemen, our peace is a peace for our Arab nation. It is a peace for Israel, for the Middle East region, for the whole world. Yes, it is a peace for the whole world.

O God, you are peace, peace comes from you, and peace is for you. Blessed are you God, full of majesty, bounty, and honor. Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, and goodwill toward men. Peace be with you.

Rabin: 'Let the New Hope Flourish'

TA0405112194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 4 May 94

[Speech by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at the signing ceremony of the Israeli-Palestinian Self-Rule Agreement at the International Convention Center in Cairo—live; passages within slantlines in English]

[Text] /The president of Egypt, President Mubarak; the cosponsors: the secretary of state of the United States, the Foreign Minister Kozyrev of Russia; Chairman 'Arafat, the chairman of the PLO; foreign ministers; distinguished guests; members of the committees that worked so hard to produce what has been done and signed at this stage; the citizens of Israel; the Palestinian people: First, I would like to join in the many happy returns for your birthday; it will take you addition many years to reach my age.

/I am not.... [pauses] How to put it? We witnessed, you witnessed, the world witnessed the tip of the iceberg of problems that we shall have to overcome in the implementation of even the first phase of the Declaration of Principles [DOP]. To overcome 100 years of animosity, suspicion, bloodshed, it's not so simple. There is an opposition on both sides to what we are doing today, and it will require a lot, a lot on both sides to make sure that we will succeed and achieve peaceful coexistence and, in addition to the coexistence, to bring a permanent solution.

/Today we signed the Gaza-Jericho First agreement, which is the first phase of implementation. It's a very daring project, and we are committed by signature today to make sure that it will work. We will achieve our goals; we will be able to overcome all these problems. You have heard many different speeches. Allow me, after saying what I have said by now, to turn in Hebrew to the people of Israel./

In 1889, 105 years ago, Avraham Jablonsky, a blacksmith, was murdered in his clay hut in Wadi Khalil. Avraham Jablonsky was the first victim in the history of the Jewish settlement in Eretz Yisra'el in modern times. He was the first victim of the bloody conflict between us and the Palestinian people since our return to the land of our forefathers after 2,000 years of exile. Since Avraham Jablonsky's death, the experience of our grandparents, parents, ourselves, and even our children and grandchildren has been almost solely one of blood and bereavement. For 100 years, this blood gave us no rest. What did we want? We wanted to return to the land of our forefathers, to the land of the Bible. We wanted a homeland; we wanted a home; we wanted a safe haven; we wanted a place to call our own; we wanted to live as all men live, to be like other nations. We wanted to live.

The war for the land of our forefathers took our best sons and daughters. It drained us of spiritual and physical energies and channeled our entire spiritual and physical existence to paths we did not want, to paths of pain. We deplore that. Even in our most difficult times, our hearts ached at the sights of devastation, hatred, and death. Even in our most bitter moments, we knew that the tears of a bereaved mother from within our midst are no different from the tears of another bereaved mother; that they are equally piercing and painful in any family; that the cries of despair are the same even when uttered in other languages.

We decided to try to put an end to this terrible circle of pain. We decided to look ahead at a different future. On 13 September 1993, on the White House lawn in Washington, we decided to embark on a new road. Tomorrow we will begin implementing the DOP. The DOP and its implementation—in Gaza and Jericho, at this point—is designed to attain a dual purpose: to enable the Palestinian authority to administer the lives of the Palestinians and to uphold public law and order in their places of residence. Our goal is to uphold security for Israelis wherever they may be, particularly in the wake of the change that is scheduled to take place in Gaza and Jericho. If the security of the Israelis is not ensured and if the Palestinians are not given new hope, the goal of the agreement will not be attained.

A great deal depends on the Palestinians. We are embarking on this new road with a lot of hope and with strong will, and we know that it entails wonderful chances as well as serious risks. We are convinced that both peoples can live on the same strip of land, every man under his vine and under his fig tree, as the Biblical prophets envisioned; to give this land, the land of stones and graves, the taste of milk and honey it deserves.

At this hour, I appeal to the Palestinian people and say to them: Palestinian neighbors, 100 bloody years have instilled in us hatred for each other. For 100 years, we wanted to see you dead and you wanted to see us dead. We killed you and you killed us. Thousands of our graves and yours dot the mountains and the valleys, and they are painful landmarks in your history and ours. Today, you and we are extending our hands in peace. Today we are opening a new account. The Israeli people expect you not to let them down. Let the new hope flourish. It is not easy to forget the past, but let us try to overcome the rancors and obstacles in order to open a new, unique, and historic horizon; an opportunity which may never recur for a different life, a life that is not fraught with fear, a life that is not fraught with hatred, a life that does not involve the frightened eyes of children, a life that does not entail pain, a life in which we will build a home, plant a vineyard, and live to a ripe old age alongside our fellow men.

Tomorrow morning, we all hope to awaken to a new day, to awaken to a new future and a new chance for our children. For their sake, it was necessary to fight; for their sake, it is vital to reach peace.

I thank all those who lent us a hand and helped us get to this day: the heads of state and statesmen; the soldiers who fought and the soldiers we hope will not have to fight.

/A special thanks to our host, to the president of Egypt, President Mubarak, the leader of the great Arab country that set the precedent that peace can be achieved, peace can be maintained, peace can bring peoples together. [applause]

/Allow me to thank to the secretary of state of the United States, a true friend of Israel; and the foreign minister of Russia; to the representatives of Norway; and to others that assisted so much./

On a spring day of 1994, two weeks ago, the late Second Lieutenant Shahar Simani was murdered. He was 21 years old and a resident of Ashqelon. His bullet-riddled body was found by the roadside on the way to Jerusalem. A thread of blood links the Israeli people from the murder of Avraham Jablonsky, the blacksmith, 105 years ago to the murder of 2d. Lt. Shahar Simani two weeks ago. I pray: May Shahar Simani be the last fatality among all of us, Israelis and Palestinians.

The new hope we are taking with us as we leave this place is immeasurable. There is no limit to our goodwill, to the will to see a historic reconciliation between two peoples that have lived so far by their swords. In the alleyways of Khan Yunus and on the outskirts of Ramat Gan, in the houses of Gaza, in the squares of Hadera, Rafah, and 'Afula, a new reality is being born today. One hundred years of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and millions of people who want to live are watching us. May God be with us. [applause]

Mubarak Sees World Committed to Peace

NC0405121894 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1019 GMT 4 May 94

[Concluding remarks by President Husni Mubarak at the signing ceremony of the Israeli-Palestinian Self-Rule Agreement at the International Convention Center in

Cairo—live; Mubarak speaks in English with simultaneous translation into Arabic]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, today we are witnessing a historic event that is likely to influence the fate of our region for decades and centuries to come. It marks the realization of a great dream and a unique vision by the peacemakers, who kept their faith, under difficult circumstances, in the noble goal of peace.

Their participation in this occasion is living testimony that the world is fully committed to this great issue. It is also a recognition of the wisdom of those who made this achievement possible.

We are looking forward to further support. Let us extend to them all material and moral support so that the agreement the Palestinians and Israelis have signed can be implemented. They took no chances or risks when they opted for peace. Let us prove to the critics of both sides that none of their fears were founded. Let us continue our efforts with the same will and determination to achieve the same success on the other peace tracks. This is the essence of the comprehensive settlement to which we are committed.

Finally, we must waste no effort to achieve a global peace. We must also turn our attention to the tragedies taking place in many regions. It is our common commitment to unite against any violation of the dignity of man. God bless us and may peace prevail on earth. Thank you.

'Arafat Signs Annexes 'With Reservations'

NC0405110894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1042 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 4 May (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat signed, with reservations, the annexes attached to the Palestinian authority agreement concerning the area of Jericho. The Palestinian president expressed his reservations about particular points in the agreement and recorded his reservations on the annexes in writing.

It took 'Arafat over five minutes to write down his reservations on the agreement. He registered his reservations in Arabic and then signed them in Arabic and English.

Rabin was then briefed by his interpreter on the reservations stated by President 'Arafat. Rabin signed the annexes without stating any remarks or reservations.

The signing of the annexes by 'Arafat and Rabin was met with a storm of applause by the audience.

Rabin then shook hands with 'Arafat after the signing ceremony.

MENA: 'Arafat, Rabin Refuse To Sign Map

NC0405093794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0926 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 4 May (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat refused to sign the map attached to the self-rule agreement delineating the area of Jericho.

When Israeli Prime Minister Rabin noticed that President 'Arafat did not sign, he consulted with Foreign Minister Peres, who in turn consulted with President 'Arafat. Rabin then refused to sign the map.

'Arafat's Reservations About Maps Cited

NC0405124494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 4 May (MENA)—MENA has learned that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat refused to sign the maps contained in the annexes of the agreement because they did not match an agreement reached with the Israeli side in a meeting that lasted until 0230 this morning. No new maps were prepared because there was no time to prepare prints of the maps agreed on.

A dispute emerged over the size of Jericho and whether it is a city or an area. An agreement was reached that the size of Jericho is 61.5 square km and that the 20 additional square km can be added to the Jericho area when the matter is discussed again in three months. President 'Arafat rejected this idea. He wants Jericho's size to be discussed in three months without prior specification of the area that can be added.

Another dispute emerged concerning a 13-km stretch of land on Gaza's coast that has an Israeli settlement. An agreement was reached that the matter will be discussed again in three months and that the Palestinians have the right to engage in any activity in that area in the meantime. Responsible Palestinian sources say that future talks on this matter may lead to the removal of the entire settlement.

Sha'th Says Talks on Jericho Area To Continue

NC0405115194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 4 May (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and head of the Palestinian side to the talks with Israel, has stated that the negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides on the size of the Jericho area will continue. 'Arafat today expressed some reservations when he signed the annexes pertaining to the Jericho area.

MENA Carries 'Text' of PLO-Israeli Agreement

CM0504114394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1545 GMT 3 May

["Text" of PLO-Israeli draft agreement on Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho—capitalization as received]

[Text] Cairo, 3 May (MENA)—The government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the representative of the Palestinian people;

Preamble

WITHIN the framework of the Middle East Peace process initiated at Madrid in October 1991;

REAFFIRMING their determination to live in peaceful coexistence, mutual dignity and security while recognising their mutual legitimate and political rights;

Reaffirming their desire to achieve a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace settlement through the agreed political process;

REAFFIRMING their adherence to the mutual recognition and commitments expressed in the letters dated September 9, 1993, signed by and exchanged between the Prime Minister of Israel and the Chairman of the PLO;

REAFFIRMING their understanding that the interim self-government arrangements, including the arrangements to apply in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area contained in this agreement, are an integral part of the whole peace process and that the negotiations on the permanent status will lead to the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242 and 338; DESIROUS of putting into effect the Declaration of Principles of interim self-government arrangements signed at Washington, D.C. on September 13, 1993, and the agreed minutes thereto (hereinafter "the Declaration of Principles"), and in particular the protocol on withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area;

HEREBY AGREE to the following arrangements regarding the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area:

Article: Definition of the Gaza Strip and Jericho Area

1. For the purpose of this agreement, the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area are delineated on map Nos. 1, and 2 attached to this agreement.

2. The two sides view the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as a single territorial unit, the integrity of which will be preserved during the interim period.

Article: Scheduled Withdrawal of Israeli Military Forces

1. Israel shall implement an accelerated and scheduled withdrawal of Israeli military forces from the Gaza Strip and from the Jericho area beginning immediately with the signing of this agreement and to be completed within three weeks from this date.

2. Subject to the arrangements included in Annex I, the Israeli withdrawal shall include evacuatinig all military bases and other fixed installations to be handed over to the Palestinian police.

3. In order to carry out Israel's responsibility for external security and for internal security and public order of Israeli settlements and Israelis, concurrently with the withdrawal, Israel will redeploy its remaining military forces to the Israeli settlement areas, Israeli settlements and the military installation area shown on map No. 1, in accordance with the provisions of this agreement. Subject to the provisions of this agreement, this redeployment shall constitute full implementation of Article XIII of the Declaration of Principles with regard to the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area (P:only).

4. For the purpose of this agreement, "Israeli military forces" may include Israel police and other Israeli security forces.

5. (I: Israelis, including Israeli military forces) (P: Israeli military forces and civilians) may continue to use roads freely within the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area. (P: Annex I includes provisions allowing Palestinians to use freely certain roads within the Israeli settement areas.)

6. The Palestinian police force shall be deployed and shall assume responsibility for public order and internal security of Palestinians in accordance with this agreement and its Annex I.

Article: Jurisdiction (Note: This article is being addressed by the legal committee).

Article: Transfer of Authority

1. Israel shall transfer authority as specified in this agreement from the Israeli military government and its civil administration to a Palestinian authority, hereby established, in accordance with article—(jurisdiction) of this agreement, except for the authority that Israel shall continue to exercise as specified in this agreement.

2. As regards the transfer and assumption of authority in civil spheres, powers and responsibilities shall be transferred and assumed as set out in the protocol concerning civil affairs attached as Annex II.

3. The Palestinian authority shall have the structure described in annex II, article I (I: and shall be comprised of the members listed herein) (P: The PLO shall inform the government of Israel of the names of the members of the Palestinian Authority and any changes thereof.)

4. Arrangements for a smooth and peaceful transfer of the agreed powers and responsibilities are set out in annex II.

5. Upon the completion of the Israeli withdrawal and the transfer of powers and responsibilities as detailed in paragraph Nos. 1 and 2 above and in annex II, the civil administration in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area will be dissolved and the Israeli military government will be withdrawn. The withdrawal of the military government shall not prevent it from continuing to exercise the powers and responsibilities specified in this agreement.

6. A joint civil affairs coordination and cooperation committee and two joint regional civil affairs subcommittee for the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area respectively will be established in order to provide for coordination and cooperation in civil affairs between the Palestinian authority and Israel, as detailed in annex II.

7. The offices of the Palestinian authority shall be located in the Gaza Strip and Jericho area pending the inauguration of the council to be elected pursuant to the Declaration of Principles.

Article: Legislative Powers of the Palestinian Authority

1. The Palestinian authority will have the power, within its jurisdiction to promulgate legislation, including basic laws, laws, regulations and other legislative acts.

2. Legislation promulgated by the Palestinian authority shall be consistent with the provisions of this agreement, (I: and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political persuasion, nationality or social origin).

3. Legislation which exceeds the jurisdiction of the Palestinian authority of which is inconsistent with the provisions of this agreement shall be null and void.

4. Legislation of the Palestinian Authority shall be communicated to a legislation subcommittee to be established by the joint civil affairs coordination and cooperation committee (hereinafter "the legislation subcommittee)" for its review during a period of 30 days from the communication of the legislation. Israel may request that the Legislation Sub-Committee decide whether such legislation exceeds the jurisdication of the Palestinian authority or is overwise inconsistent with the provisions of the agreement.

5. Upon the receipt of the Israel request, the legislation sub- committee shall decide, as an initial matter, on the entry into force of the legislation pending its decision on the merits of the matter.

6. If the Legislation Sub-Committee is unable to reach a decision with regard ot the entry into force of the legislation within 15 days, this issue will be referred to a board of review, comprised of two judges (or retired judges), one from each side.

For this purpose, the two sides shall compile a list of six judges (or retired judges), three from each side, approved by both sides. In order to allow fast-track proceeding before this board of review, the two most senior judges (or retired judges), one from each side, shall develop wirtten informal rules of procedures of those proceedings.

7. Legislation referred to the board of review shall enter into force only if the board of review decides that it does not deal with a security issue which falls under the Israel's responsibility, that the alleged violation does not seriously threaten other significant Israeli interests protected by this agreement and that the entry into force of the legislation could not cause irreparable damage or harm.

8. The Legislation Sub-Committee shall attempt to reach a decision on the merits of the matter within 30 days from the date of the Israeli request. If this sub-committee is unable to reach such a decision within this period of 30 days, the matter shall be referred to the joint Israeli-Palestinian liaison committee.

9. Where the legislation has not entered into force pursuant to paragraph Nos. 5 or 7 above, such situation shall be maintained pending the decision of the joint Israel-Palestinian liaison committee on the merits of the matter, unless it has decided otherwise.

10. Laws and military orders in effect in the Gaza Strip or Jericho area prior to the signing of this agreement shall remain in force, unless amended or aborgated in accordance with this agreement.

Article: Arrangements for Security and Public Order

1. In order to guarantee public order and internal security for the Palestinians of the Gaza Strip and the Jericho areas, the Palestinian authority shall establish a strong police force, as set out in Article...(PDPF) below. Israel shall continue to carry the responsibility for defence against external threats, including the responsibility for protecting the Egyptian border and the Jordanian line, and for defence against external threats from the sea and from the air, as well as the responsibility for overall security of Israelis and Israelis settlement for the purpose of safeguarding their internal security and public order.

2. Agreed security arrangements and coordination mechanisms are specified in annex I.

3. A joint coordination and cooperation committee for mutual security purposes, as well as three join coordination and cooperation offices for the Gaza District, the Khan Yunis district and the Jericho district respectively, are hereby established as provided for in annex I.

4. The security arrangement provided for in this agreement and in annex I may be reviewed at the request of either party and may be amended by mutual agreement of the parties. Specific review arrangements are included in annex I.

Article: The Palestinian Directorate of Police Force

1. In order to guarantee public order and internal security for the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area, the Palestinian authority shall establish a strong police force—the Palestinian directorate of police force (hereinafter "the Palestinian police"). The duties, functions, structure, deployment and composition of the Palestinian police, together with provisions regarding its equipment and operation, are set out in annex I, article... Rules of conduct governing the activities of the Palestinian police are set out in annex I, article...

2. Except for the Palestinian police referred to in this article and the Israeli military forces referred in article— no other armed forces shall be established or operate in the Gaza Strip or the Jericho area.

3. Except for the arms, ammunition and equipment of the Palestinian police described in annex I, article— neither the Palestinian Authority, nor any organisation of individual in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area, shall manufacture, sell, acquire, possess, import of otherwise introduce into the Gaza Strip or the Jericho area, any firearms, ammunition, weapons explosives, gunpowder or any related equipment.

4. Notwithstanding paragraph 3. above:

(a) The Palestinian authority may grant licences permitting the use of explosives and gunpowder for civilian use and shall supervise such use. Such licensing and supervision shall be subject to the approval of the JSC.

(b) Each side may grant licences permitting the possession and carrying of pistols for self defence purposes. Arrangements in this regard are set out in annex I, paragraph—.

Article: Passages

Arrangements for coordination between Israel and the Palestinian authority regarding the Gaza-Egypt and Jericho-Jordan passages, as well as any other agreed international crossings, are set out in annex I, article...

Article: Safe Passage Between the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area

Arrangements for safe passage of persons and transportation between the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area are set out in annex I, article...

Article: Relations between Israel and the Palestinian authority

1. Israel and the Palestinian Authority shall seek to foster mutual understandinig and tolerance and shall accordingly abstain from incitement, including hostile propaganda, against each other and, without derogating from the principle of freedom of expression shall take legal measures to prevent such incitement by the organisations, groups of individuals within their jurisdiction.

2. Without derogating from the other provisions of this agreement, Israel and the Palestinian authority shall cooperate in combatting criminal activity which may affect both sides, including: offences related to the trafficking in illegal drugs and psychotropic substances, smuggling, and offences against property, including offences related to vehicles, such as theft of vehicles and vehicle parts.

Article: Economic Relations

The economic relations between the two sides are set out in the Protocol on Economic Relations signed in Paris on April 29, 1994 and the Appendices thereto, attached as Annex IV, and will be governed by the relevant provisions of this agreement and its annexes.

Article: Human Rights and Rule of Law

Israel and the Palestinian authority shall exercise their powers and responsibilities, pursuant to this agreement, with due regard to international accepted norms and principles of human rights and the rule of law.

Article: The Joint Israel-Palestinian Liaison Committee

1. The Joint Israeli-Palestinian liaison committee established pursuant to article X of the Declaration of Principles shall ensure the smooth implementation fo this agreement. It shall deal with issues requiring coordination, other issues of common interest and disputes.

2. The joint committee shall be composed of an equal number of members from each party. It may add other technicians and experts as necessary.

3. The joint committee shall adopt its rule of procedure, including the frequency and place or places of its meetings.

4. The joint committee shall reach its decisions by agreement.

Article: Liaison and Cooperation with Jordan and Egypt

1. Pursuant to article XII of the Declaration of Priciples, the two parties shall invite the governments of Jordan and Egypt to participate in establishing further liaison and cooperation arrangements between the government of Israel and the Palestinian representatives on the one hand, the governments of Jordan and Egypt, on the other hand, to promote cooperation between them. These arrangements shall include the constitution of a continuing committee.

2. The continuing committee shall decide by agreement on the modalities of admission of pesons displaced from the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967, together with necessary measures to prevent disruption and disorder.

3. The continuing committee shall deal with other matters of common concern.

Article: Settlement of Differences and Disputes

1. Any differences relating to the application of this agreement shall be referred to the appropriate coordination and cooperation mechanism under this agreement. The provisions of article XV of the Declaration of Principles shall apply to any such differences which is not settled through the apppropriate coordination and liaison mechanism, namely:

(i) Disputes arising out of the application of interpretation of this agreement or any subsequent agreements pertaining to the interim period shall be settled by negotiations through the joint liaison committee.

(ii) Disputes that cannot be settled by negotiations may be settled through an accord and conciliation mechanism to be agreed upon by the parties.

(iii) The parties agree to submit to arbitration disputes relating to the interim period that cannot be settled through conciliation. The parties shall establish an arbitration committee for this purpose.

2. When the difference concerns a conflict between Israeli security powers and responsibilities pursuant to Article /Arrangement for Security and Public Order/ Paragraph 1 and 2 and Annex 1 of this agreement, and any other power of responsibility, the Israeli security power and responsibilities shall have precedence pending the settlement of the difference. Israel may take steps to restore the situation that existed before the accord or omission that caused the difference.

3. In the event of any other difference concerning the interpretation or implementation of this agreement, the status quo existing before the accords or the omissions that caused the difference shall remain pending a settlement of the difference.

In the event that the status quo that existed before these accords or omissions was unclear or cannot be restored, the joint cooperation and civil affairs coordination committee, referred to in Annex II and Article III, shall decide the situation that will prevail pending a settlement of the dispute.

4. Paragraphs 2 and 3 will continue to be implemented, while the provisions of Article 15 of the Declaration of Principles shall be implemented until the two sides reach an agreement.

Article: Prevention of Hostile Acts

Both sides shall take all measures necessary in order to prevent acts of terrorism, crime and hostilities directed against each other, against individuals falling under the other's jurisdiction and against their property, and shall take legal measures against offenders. In this regard, the Palestinian side shall also take all measures necessary to prevent such hostile acts directed against the Israeli settlement areas and the infrastructure serving them and the military installation area.

Article: Missing Israelis

The Palestinian authority shall cooperate with Israel by providing all necessary assistance in the conduct of searches by Israel within the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area for missing Israelis.

Article: Confidence-Building Measures

[I: Israel and the Palestinian authority will implement confidence building measures, including the release of detainees and prisoners held by Israel, and the protection of persons who have or are believed to have cooperated or collaborated with Israel, as detailed in the protocol attached as Annex VII.]

Article: Temporary International Presence

[P:1. The Parties agree to a temporary international presence in PNA (Palestine National Authority) territory, including international observers, instructors and other elements.

2. The international presence shall consist of qualified personnel from the donor countries.

3. A special fund from donor countries shall be established to provide finance for this international presence and ensure its maintenance.

4. The international presence may be renewed one year after its deployment by agreement.

5. A trilateral cooperation and coordination mechanism, shall be estbalished.

6. Israel and the Palestinian authority shall negotiate a special protocol that will implement this article.]

Article: Rights, Liabilities and Obligations

1. A. The transfer of the agreed powers and responsibilities to the Palestinian authority, as detailed in Annex II, includes all related rights, liabilities and obligations of the Israeli military government and its civil administration arising with regard to acts or omissions which accurred prior to the transfer. Israel will cease to bear any financial responsibility regarding such acts or omissions and the Palestinian authority will bear all financial responsibility for these and for its own functioning.

B. Any financial claim made in this regard against Israel will be referred to the Palestinian authority.

C. Where legal proceedings are brought in respect of such a claim, Israel will notify the Palestinian authority and enable it to participate in defending the claim.

D. In the event that an award is made against Israel by any court or tribunal in respect of such a claim, the Palestinian authority shall reimburse Israel and the full amount of the award.

C. [letter as published] Without prejudice to the above, where a court of tribunal hearing such a claim finds that liability rests solely with an employee or agent who acted beyond the scope of the powers assigned to him or her, the Palestinian authority shall not bear financial responsibility.

Article: Final Clauses

1. This agreement shall enter into force on the date of its signing.

2. The arrangements established by this agreement shall remain in force until and to extent superseded by the interim agreement referred to in the Declaration of Principles or any other agreement between the parties.

3. The five-year transitional period referred to ini the Declaration of Principels shall commence on...

4. As part of Israel's responsibility for external security in accordance with this agreement, in the event of the outbreak of general hostilities or the imminent threat of such hostilities, or where the Palestinian authority is unable to prevent attacks against Israeli settlements or Israelis so that their security is threatened, Israel may take all measures necessary to respond to such events, including the introduction of additional military forces wherever required, until the termination of the hostilities or the removal of the threat.

5. The parties agree that, as long as this agreement is in force, the security fence erected by Israel around the Gaza Strip shall remain in place and that the line demarcated by the fence, as shown on map no. 1, shall be authoritative only for the purpose of this agreement.

6. Nothing in this agreement shall prejudice or preempt the outcome of the negotiations on the interim agreement or on the permanent status to be conducted pursuant to the Declaration of Principles. Neither party shall be deemed by virtue of having entered into this agreement, to have renounced or waived any of its existing rights, claims or positions.

7. The Gaza Strip and the Jericho area will continue to be an integral part of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and their status shall not be changed for the period of this agreement. Nothing in this agreement shall be considered to change this status.

8. The preamble to this agreement, and all annexes, appendices and maps attached hereto, shall constitute an integral part hereof.

Done in Cairo this 4th day of May, 1994

For the government of Israel

For the PLO

Reportage on Pre-Ceremony Events, Negotiations

Al-Tibi: 'Crisis' in Talks Over

NC0305142294 Paris AFP in English 1331 GMT 3 May 94

[Excerpts] Cairo, May 3 (AFP)—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin arrived here Tuesday [3 May] to finalise the Palestinian self-rule accord with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat as officials said a last-minute crisis threatening Wednesday's signing had been resolved.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said as he arrived with Rabin: "We are going to sign tomorrow, I feel great."

They still had to solve outstanding problems and "time has its limits," but he dismissed talk of any postponement, saying "we need a crisis before the signature."

The PLO had warned Wednesday's ceremony was under threat after Israel backtracked on several points of the historic deal for self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

But Ahmad al-Tibi, an Israeli Arab and 'Arafat adviser, said that the "crisis" was over and the final points would be dealt with by the two leaders on Tuesday night.

'Arafat and Rabin have still to agree on the size of the autonomous Jericho area and on Palestinian demands for the presence of a symbolic policeman on the Allenby bridge from Jordan to the West Bank.

A PLO official said they would also have to resolve two other undisclosed issues as Israel prepared to hand over control of part of the territories it seized in its 1967 war with the Arabs. [passage omitted

Meanwhile on the ground, Israeli soldiers were given new orders not to shoot at Palestinians unless they were in "real danger" and to let them celebrate freely after Wednesday's signing, an army spokesman said.

And the redeployment of Israeli forces moved up a gear as equipment was pulled out from bases across Gaza.

The Israelis are to redeploy to protect the Jewish settlements in Gaza, according to the September 13 Declaration of Principles on autonomy, and pull out from Jericho altogether.

A first contingent of 1,000 Palestinian policemen were set to cross into Gaza on Thursday from the 9,000-strong force which will be deployed in Gaza and Jericho, a spokesman for the new force said.

The army declared Jericho out of bounds to avoid trouble after settlers called a demonstration Tuesday evening at the ancient Jewish synagogue in Jericho. A large number of rabbis intended to camp in the building.

The army also planned to cut off the main roads into the West Bank and Gaza to prevent Jewish settlers from protesting.

In the Gulf, a session of multilateral peace talks in Qatar began with the country's Foreign Minister Hamad Bin-Jabbur Al Thani warning that Israel's nuclear potential was a threat to stability in the Middle East.

'Usfur on Israel Raising New Obstacles

NC0305140194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 3 May (MENA)—Hasan 'Usfur, member of the Palestinian delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli Security Affairs Committee, has disclosed that the new obstacles that Israel suddenly raised to the agreement on self-rule in Gaza and Jericho result from its putting forth 25 new points on all issues—security, civilian, and legal.

He told a MENA correspondent today that these points had been agreed upon earlier.

He said: This is a known Israeli tactic aimed at preventing us from making any new proposals.

'Major Points' of Agreement Detailed

TA0305183994 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] Here are some of the major points in the agreement between the PLO and Israel which appear in the document received by our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari:

Both parties stress their determination to live in peaceful coexistence. Israel will withdraw from the Gaza Strip and Jericho within three weeks.

Both parties will take all the steps necessary to prevent terrorism, crime, and any acts of violence. Israel will be able to take interdictory measures in the areas where it is responsible for security with the intention of bringing any incidents to a rapid conclusion and turning them over to the Palestinian police to handle. The use of firearms will be prohibited, except in the case of immediate danger. Shots will be fired solely for the purpose of deterrence.

Israelis, including IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers, will be permitted to use the roads in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. Palestinians will be able to travel on the roads crossing through the Israeli settlements.

The Palestinian authority will be composed of 24 members and will be responsible for all legislative, executive, and judicial powers. The judicial powers of the Palestinian authority will not apply to Israelis. Israel retains judicial authority over the Israeli settlements.

The Palestinian authority will have no powers in the field of foreign relations, and it will be unable to establish embassies and consulates.

Mubarak Meets With Rabin, Peres

NC0305163494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 3 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at the presidential palace today.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa also attended the meeting.

Mubarak Holds Talks With 'Arafat

NC0305174794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1725 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 3 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat at the presidential office tonight.

The president and 'Arafat held a bilateral round of talks.

Mubarak, 'Arafat, Peres, Christopher Meet

NC0305182594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1809 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 3 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak held an expanded session of talks this evening, which was attended by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Mubarak Receives Phone Call From Clinton

NC0305190094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 3 May (MENA)—This evening President Mubarak received a telephone call from U.S. President Bill Clinton.

The conversation dealt with the final arrangements of the Gaza-Jericho Agreement and the outcome of the intense meetings in Cairo over the past few hours to prepare for signing the Palestinian-Israeli agreement tomorrow.

Rabin-'Arafat Meeting Cut Off

TA0305202094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is currently meeting with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. This meeting cut off the meeting between Prime Minister Rabin and 'Arafat. The forum of the Rabin-'Arafat meeting was expanded to include Ministers Peres and Sarid and Major General Amnon Shahaq, head of the Israeli peace delegation, on the Israeli side, and Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation, on the PLO side. Uri Savir, director general of the Foreign Ministry, and Yo'el Singer, the Foreign Ministry's legal adviser, later joined the talks as well.

While the meeting between Christopher and 'Arafat is going on, the meeting Ministers Peres, Sarid, and the Israeli delegation members are holding with the Palestinian representatives, headed by Nabil Sha'th, is continuing. Our correspondent Arye Gus notes that the inclusion of Savir and Singer indicates that the sides have reached the formulation stage.

Jordanian Minister al-Hasan Arrives

NC0305141194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 3 May (MENA)—Talal al-Hasan, Jordan's minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a visit to Egypt where he will attend the signing of the agreement on the implementation of the Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho tomorrow.

He was received at the airport by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Lebanon Not To Attend Signing

NC0305194894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] Lebanon has apologized for not attending the ceremony in Cairo tomorrow to sign the self-rule agreement between the PLO and Israel. Diplomatic sources told the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY that Lebanon conveyed the apology during a telephone call by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz to Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa two days ago.

Agreement on Airports, Flights Reached

NC0305210494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1925 GMT 3 May 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 3 May (MENA)—Engineer Fayiz Zaydan, director general of the Palestinian civil aviation and the Palestinian airlines, has stated that the Palestinian and Israeli sides have agreed to build airports in Gaza and Jericho. He said that regular domestic flights will operate between Gaza and Jericho. International flights will begin operation between these two cities and various parts of the world as soon as the runways are built and the airports equipped with the necessary air navigation equipment needed for take offs and landing of jets and propeller aircraft early next year.

Zaydan added that the Palestinian civil aviation authority will build temporary landing strips as soon as the Israeli troops withdraw from and the Palestinian police deploy in Gaza and Jericho. These strips will be first used for flights between Gaza and Jericho, and between those cities and Cairo. He added that flights to other capitals in the region will be negotiated in due time. Engineer Zaydan said that these temporary landing strips will be used by two 50-passenger Palestinian planes, the standard capacity according to the rules of air safety. He expects these flights to begin operation in August.

The Palestinian official pointed out that four 20-passenger planes will be set aside for the Palestinian authority officials to use in their travels between Gaza and Jericho. Four helicopters will be used by the Palestinian civil defense for air and sea rescue operations and for transportation. Two helicopters will be used by the Palestinian president and his guests in their trips between Gaza and Jericho. [passage omitted]

Accord To Be Signed Despite Outstanding Issue

TA0405041894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] An understanding was reached in Cairo overnight whereby the Gaza-Jericho agreement would be signed even if the last outstanding issue—positioning a Palestinian policeman on the Allenby Bridge—is not settled.

Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Israel agreed last night to expand Jericho's autonomous area and include an area west of al-'Awja' in it. Both delegations are pursuing their contacts in a bid to solve the question of the Palestinian policeman by the time of the signing ceremony.

'Insignificant' Points Left for Later

NC0405060794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has met for the second time with members of the Palestinian and Israeli delegations to continue his extensive consultations and discussions with them. The Palestinian side was lead by Yasir 'Arafat while the Israeli side was lead by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

President Mubarak has been following up on the talks between the two sides, which lasted for approximately six hours, ending at 0130 this morning. President Mubarak met with the delegations immediately afterwards.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has stated that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement will be signed today, adding that everything has been resolved. Dr. Sha'th made these remarks following the Palestinian-Israeli talks that ended at 0205 this morning.

Regarding the differences that existed between the two sides, Sha'th said that solutions were found for all these points, with the support of President Husni Mubarak, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. He added: Negotiations always involve give and take and we have reached an agreement that we are satisfied with.

Concluding his remarks, Sha'th said he was pleased with what has been achieved. He added that the beginning is always important because this is the first time in the history of the Palestinian people that they have had a chance to rule themselves by themselves on their own territory. He added: This is not all we want, it is just a start.

Foreign Minister Musa said following the Palestinian-Israeli talks that the agreement for the implementation of the Declaration of Principles will be signed at 1100 [0800 GMT] this morning. He added that all the outstanding issues had been settled and that the details will be made public today. He added: I will not announce anything on behalf of the Palestinians or the Israelis. Everything has been discussed in detail on the maps related to the agreement.

Asked if an agreement has been reached on the size of Jericho, Musa said that the area of Jericho has been increased by several kilometers, provided this is taken into consideration [as heard]. Regarding the guards at the crossing points, Musa said a certain agreement has been reached over this point.

Musa expressed his happiness at reaching an agreement, noting that some insignificant points have been left for a later stage.

Regarding the release of the Palestinian prisoners, Musa said this matter was discussed and many of them will be released. The foreign minister added that the question of territorial water was also discussed.

On U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's role in the talks, Musa noted that Christopher played a very important role. Asked if President Mubarak played a role in persuading 'Arafat, Musa said: President Mubarak has persuaded all parties, not just 'Arafat, to be flexible.

Asked why President Mubarak spent so many hours in the negotiations for the first time, Musa said that it is natural for President Mubarak to be present throughout the duration of the talks, since Egypt is the country that has been devoting its efforts to solve the Palestinian issue for more than 40 years. He added that Egypt is also the host country for the signing ceremony of this historic agreement between the Palestinians and Israelis.

Final Areas of Discord in Talks Detailed

TA0405051794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 4 May 94

[Report by Arye Gus and Shlomo Raz in Cairo—live]

[Excerpts] [Gus] Prime Minister Rabin, 'Arafat, President Mubarak, Foreign Minister Musa, Secretary of State Christopher, and the heads of the delegations to the autonomy talks sat for eight hours last night until they settled all the disputed issues and announced that the agreement would be signed today at 1100.

Last night's session was very contentious. It was fraught with mutual accusations about reneging on decisions and earlier positions, and with demands to reopen issues which had already been finalized. At times, the atmosphere was one of near-crisis. Occasionally, there were loud verbal exchanges, and U.S. Secretary of State Christopher had to intervene to calm 'Arafat down.

At 0215 [2315 GMT], Nabil Sha'th and 'Amr Musa came out of the room to face the press, and Musa announced: There is an agreement. The sides held discussions and finalized all the details of the agreement.

Following are the outstanding issues the draft committees left to Rabin and 'Arafat to finalize:

Jericho's autonomous area: The area from which Israel will withdraw has been expanded to 62 km, far less than what the Palestinians demanded. However, the size and fate of this area may be brought up for further discussion at a later stage. In other words, this issue remains open.

Positioning a Palestinian policeman on the Allenby Bridge: Israel refused to accept this demand, and a policeman will not be positioned on the bridge. This issue may also be brought up for further discussion at a later stage.

Releasing prisoners: This was one of the toughest problems. Israel refused to release more than the 5,000 prisoners that had been agreed earlier. As may be recalled, the Palestinians had demanded the release of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad members who would in exchange undertake a commitment to stop engaging in terror and to support the Declaration of Principles. These terrorists will not be released at this point, but their case may be brought up for further discussion by the security liaison committee to be established at a later stage.

Territorial waters: The area to be given to the Palestinians has been expanded from 3 to 6 miles. They will also be given fishing rights in another 6 miles further out to sea.

Security activities: This is a very important issue which could cause problems and disputes in the future. The area of activity has been increased to 75 meters on each side of the east-west roads. In any event, the Palestinians will not have the right to detain or imprison Israelis, and they will have to summon a joint patrol. The Palestinian police force will not be allowed to detain uniformed Israeli security troops and vehicles. Israel will have the right and prerogative to any immediate reaction—or engagement [last word in English], as this is defined in the agreement—to any operation or incident which might endanger lives or property. However, the aim will be to end the incident and to defer its handling to the Palestinian police force as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

[Raz] Another decision made last night was to append several letters to the agreement. One letter deals with an issue which had been finalized, but the Israeli delegation nevertheless pressed to put it in writing: Yasir 'Arafat will not be able to enter the area bearing the title of president, but that of chairman of the PLO.

Another issue spelled out in a letter has to do with the talks about the early transfer of power in other areas of the West Bank other than Jericho, which will begin at once. This issue had been in dispute for many months and was raised in Washington more than once. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Request for 'Pledge' on Jericho

NC0405135994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 4 May (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and head of the Palestinian negotiating team, said that the two sides were still discussing Jericho's map up until the signing of the agreement today.

Speaking to journalists following the signing ceremony, Sha'th said the two sides had no time to review the entire agreement because the negotiations continued until 1100 this morning.

Sha'th pointed out that during the signing ceremony Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat requested a pledge from the Israeli side that the Jericho map appended to the agreement not be the final map. He stated this in a document appended to the agreement.

Sha'th revealed that President Husni Mubarak and others at the ceremony promised that the document would be appended to the agreement. The document, which states: "Jericho's area is not final and is still the subject of negotiations between the two sides," was signed by president 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Dr. Sha'th said that 2,000 detainees will be released tomorrow, Thursday, and that more will be freed over the next three weeks. He added that one of the important aspects of the agreement is the understanding reached concerning the return of Palestinians from abroad.

'Arafat Said 'Not Ready' for Transfer

TA0405134994 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1300 GMT 4 May 94

[Ehud Ya'ari studio report from Cairo—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The next central issue, if I may call it that, is the fact that last night—and so far I have not heard that this has changed—'Arafat told the Americans, Rabin, and Mubarak that he is not ready to immediately send in a large police force into the Gaza Strip. Therefore, the implementation of the agreement in practice, the practical handing over of the keys, may last more than the seven days which were initially scheduled for the initial assumption of power by 'Arafat's forces in Rafah and Jericho.

Arms Control, Regional Security Meeting Opens

Qatari Foreign Minister Gives Speech

JN0305133694 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] Doha—Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani opened the fifth multilateral meeting of the Middle East Arms Control and Regional Security working group at the Doha Sheraton Hotel this morning.

The four-day meeting is attended by 220 representatives from 43 countries. His Excellency Muhammad al-Za'abi, United Arab Emirates [UAE] ambassador to Qatar, heads the UAE delegation to the meetings.

In a speech opening the meeting, the Qatari foreign minister said that he hopes that the meeting will succeed, and that this meeting confirms the desire to effectively participate in the Middle East peace process. He said this meeting falls within the framework of Qatar's eagerness to render this peaceful process a success and of its continued participation in the multilateral talks, which basically deal with the post-peace stage. He explained that the aspired peace is one that restores all the occupied Arab territories to their owners, foremost holy Jerusalem, as well as restoring the Palestinians' legitimate national rights, including the right to self-determination.

Israel Invites Arabs To Tour IDF Bases

TA0305191394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] The Israeli delegation to the Qatar arms control talks has invited the neighboring countries participating in the multilateral talks to send delegations to visit IDF [Israel Defense Forces] bases and installations. Sources in the Israeli delegation said that even if the invitation is declined, this will not mean failure because the very fact that it was issued constitutes a small step forward that is indicative of a change in atmosphere.

Our correspondent in Qatar Karmela Menashe reports that the Israeli delegation is meeting with delegations from Arab states concurrently with the plenum sessions. Sources in the Israeli delegation said that progress has been made in the discussions of the committee on arms control.

The atmosphere in the meetings outside the plenum hall is relaxed. In all the sessions, all the participants are addressing the issue of Israel's nonconventional weapons arsenal.

The Qatari foreign minister will leave for Cairo tomorrow to attend the signing ceremony of the agreement between the PLO and Israel.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 26 Apr

NC3004201694

[Editorial Report] The following review of the 26 April issue of Cairo 'AQIDATI summarizes articles that are Islamic in nature.

CONTENTS:

1. Material, Human Support for Chinese Muslims Urged
2. Support for al-Azhar To Combat Religious Illiteracy
3. Refresher Course Held for Mosque Imams
4. New Course for Islamic World Imams and Preachers

MATERIAL, HUMAN SUPPORT FOR CHINESE MUSLIMS URGED

In a 350-word column on page one, 'AQIDATI's board chairman Samir Rajab reports on his recent visit to China. He says he noticed this time that some of the

Muslims there were more optimistic and hopeful regarding the future. He wonders whether the economic open-door policy in China has been extended to cover religious affairs as well.

After noting that this was a good sign, he says: "Frankly, unless the Islamic states act effectively over all this vast far region, the Muslims will lose some of the ground they have won." He warns that "we must support these temporary gains with our material and human resources."

SUPPORT FOR AL-AZHAR TO COMBAT RELIGIOUS ILLITERACY

In a 100-word report on page two, Nadiyah al-Sayyid writes that the Specialized National Councils [SNC] under Dr. 'Abd-al-Qadir Hatim have called for the need to place all the necessary resources at the disposal of al-Azhar so it can shoulder its responsibilities on the issues of the call and fatwa. This can be done by reviving the senior ulema committee or by reinforcing the effectiveness of the Islamic Research Institute, emphasizing its role in combating religious illiteracy and publicizing Islam's views on issues affecting modern society. "The arena must not be left free to incorrect interpretations by religious extremists." The SNC recommends that the Awqaf Ministry supervise publicly funded and built mosques and provide them with specialized preachers who can give correct religious education to the youths to steer them away from extremist ideologies. The SNC also recommends that consideration be given to limiting Friday prayers to major mosques "to avoid wrong interpretations and endeavors by Islamic extremists."

REFRESHER COURSE HELD FOR MOSQUE IMAMS

In an unattributed 250-word report on page two, the paper writes that Awqaf Minister Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub and Deputy al-Azhar Rector Shaykh Sayyid Sa'ud have distributed certificates to 50 imams and scholars who attended a course for mosque imams from the governorates of Suez, Port Said, Ismailia, and Sinai. Dr. Mahjub explained that the course is considered "a big step to assist the scholars in discussing the current issues with the youths." The experiment will be extended to all governorates.

NEW COURSE FOR ISLAMIC WORLD IMAMS AND PREACHERS

A 75-word report on page three says that the 25th course for Islamic world imams and preachers organized by al-Azhar will begin on 1 May. The course will be attended by 30 imams and preachers from Uzbekistan, Moscow, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Zaire, Liberia, and South Africa.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 26 Apr

NC0205102094

[Editorial Report] The following review of the 26 April issue of Cairo AL-SHA'B summarizes articles that are Islamic in nature.

CONTENTS:

1. Muslim Brotherhood Figure Reflects on Police-Islamists War
2. Chief Editor Vows To Keep Up War Against Corruption
3. Al-Ghazali on Israel's Economic Supremacy
4. Islamist on Human Rights Violations in Jails
5. Editorial Calls For Driving Out Foreign Forces From Sinai
6. Opinion Poll Shows Shari'ah Can Cure Armed Violence
7. War Against Corruption

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD FIGURE REFLECTS ON POLICE-ISLAMISTS WAR

In a 3,000-word article on page 5, Muslim Brotherhood figure Dr. Ahmad al-Malat reflects on the "quagmire of bloodletting on the good Egyptian soil," between policemen who carry out officials' orders and young people who went astray. He remarks that: "The greatest disaster ever is that the bloodletting persists in the form of mutual vendetta, continuing executions, indiscriminate killing that makes no distinction between the innocent and the guilty, and the insistence on violence as the only approach against both policemen and young Islamists."

Although we are pleased to see the policemen doing their noble duty of safeguarding the homeland's and the citizen's peace, we certainly disagree with them on the way they perform this duty because man is entitled to certain rights that should be preserved, he says. To explain this, he states that "mass arrests that make no distinction between the innocent and the guilty are prohibited and torturing and humiliating them is prohibited." He adds that mere suspicion does not provide enough justification for the police to do whatever they want unless they rely on that "repulsive emergency law, for which there is no equal in terms of cruelty, severity, and longevity elsewhere, except in this afflicted country."

Referring sarcastically to the 23 July 1952 revolution and its leader, Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, he says: "Dead and buried, the so-called blessed revolution has left the Egyptian people a heritage of humiliation and denigration, forcing them to walk in the shadow of the sole, inspired ruler and to worship in his temple rather than in the mosque of Islam."

Al-Malat contends that "certain police groups" have committed themselves to fighting anything Islamic in nature. He notes that Muslim Brotherhood founder Imam Hasan al-Banna was assassinated by the guards of King Faruq of Egypt.

He cites an interview with a former interior minister's assistant, which the magazine LIWA' AL-ISLAMI published in its April edition, in which he talks about police violence during interrogations.

Moving to another point, al-Malat states that a "fierce war was launched against preachers" for fear that they might refute secularist claims. Some of the victims of that war, he says, were Shaykh Kishk, Shaykh Ahmad al-Mahallawi, and Shaykh 'Umar 'abd-al-Kafi. He says that the police silenced hundreds of those preachers and replaced them with men who do not even read the Koran properly.

Promising the "second part" of his article on Tuesday, 3 May, al-Malat concludes with the Koranic verse 2-114: "And who is more unjust than he who forbids that in places for the worship of God, God's name should be celebrated? Whose zeal is to ruin them? It was not fitting that such should themselves enter them except in fear. For them there is nothing but disgrace in this world, and in the world to come an exceeding torment."

CHIEF EDITOR VOWS TO KEEP UP WAR AGAINST CORRUPTION

The newspaper's chief editor, Majdi Ahmad Husayn, writes in his 2,000-word article on page 5 that "official complaints against AL-SHA'B continue in an obvious attempt to dissuade it from keeping up its determined line to fight corruption." He vows that the paper will not shift an inch from its position in spite of the scores of interrogations and the four cases filed against it. "It has become clear to all that it is not a matter of slander or defamation on the paper's part, but an attempt to silence every free and candid voice," he says.

Noting the complaint the chairman of the Suez Canal Authority filed against the paper, he says that the authority chairman does not care about the billions of pounds the authority loses every year through human error, mismanagement, and fraud and only wants to defend himself and silence AL-SHA'B.

Citing the Japanese and U.S. experience, Husayn stresses that issues involving public funds should be discussed in public.

In conclusion, he writes: "There is no time for playing games. If this nation is to be rescued from its ordeal, the heads of corruption must be amputated and society must be cleansed. To do that, we have to pay the price and make sacrifices."

AL-GHAZALI ON ISRAEL'S ECONOMIC SUPREMACY

In his 400-word column on page 12, Muhammad al-Ghazali quotes Israel's founder, Ben-Gurion, as vowing that Israel would conquer Arab states with military supremacy, and if that was not possible it would conquer them with economic supremacy. He states that "Solomon's jinns" work around the clock to perfect the peace and war industry and that their products have invaded world markets. He admits that the Israeli skill in civilian and military production is not surprising because the plan to set up greater Israel is based on "a hardworking people who sweat in the field while neighboring, smooth-handed people indulge in luxury and their young men are deprived of firm religious guidance."

Al-Ghazali notes that the Jewish experience in highly productive farming is being offered to Egypt, a country that has farmed the land for 50 centuries and to which the Jews fled tens of centuries ago to escape poverty and famine. He wonders what has happened to Arabs and Egypt to make them fail to exploit their lands and double their wealth. He affirms that the Egyptian youth are idle wealth and paralyzed talent who could surpass Jews if they were given the chance. He notes that deserting Islam has led to all this.

Noting the killing of 16 "fundamentalists" near an Arab capital, he says: "We are only strong when we fight among ourselves as we compete for worldly luxury. But the distance is long between us and God's book and his prophet's tradition."

ISLAMIST ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN JAILS

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus' 500-word column on page 12 states that the "violation of human rights is the major defect in Husni Mubarak's regime," which commits the most despicable acts against inmates in the al-'Aqrab, the scorpion, jail south of Cairo.

He affirms that inmates in that prison are held in cells resembling cemetries and that they never see the sun. He adds that visits by family members, newspapers, letters, sports, bathing, airing of blankets, and going out of the cells are prohibited in that place. On top of all that, inmates are regularly insulted and humiliated, he adds, noting that this prison is a mark of disgrace on the regime. He finally calls on the authorities to wake up before it is too late.

EDITORIAL CALLS FOR DRIVING OUT FOREIGN FORCES FROM SINAI

A 400-word editorial on page 1 commemorates the 12th anniversary of Sinai's liberation and notes that U.S. forces, "better known as the multinational forces," are still present in Sinai. The editorial asks when these forces will leave and calls on all national powers to drive these forces out of Sinai. It calls on the government to use the Armed Forces to exploit the area.

OPINION POLL SHOWS SHARI'AH CAN CURE ARMED VIOLENCE

A 200-word report by Ahmad al-Siyufi on page 1 says that an opinion poll on armed violence conducted by the

National Dialogue Committee at Asyut University has shown that 62.27 percent of university professors attribute violence to economic and social causes, widespread corruption, the conduct of the security forces, and insufficient religious education. The report says that 37.8 percent of professors attribute violence to foreign elements.

The poll showed that 73.4 percent believe that the application of shari'ah is the right cure for violence.

Asked about the causes of sectarian strife, 31.9 percent said the cause was foreign elements, 35 percent said it was the incorrect understanding of religion, 8.4 percent said it was the feeling of being persecuted, and 24.7 said it was the failure to apply shari'ah.

The poll showed that 88 percent of professors believe that the existing parliamentary institutions do not represent the people properly, while 5.7 percent believe they do.

WAR AGAINST CORRUPTION

A 2,000-word report by 'Imad Mahjub on page 2 cites a report by the Central Accounting Organization on the abuse of public funds in Aswan Governorate, where a total of 635,249 pounds of the governorate's budget and the local development fund were spent on "guests" between January 1992 and May 1993.

The report claims that Aswan Governor Salah Misbah used the development fund to buy gifts and entertain and accommodate guests at five-star hotels. The prime minister's private secretary was among these guests. Her birthday party at the Cataract Hotel in February and her golden birthday gift were financed by public funds. Other "guests" are mentioned in the report.

A 3,000-word report by Sha'ban 'Abd-al-Rahman on page 2 gives an account of the "crimes" AL-SHA'B reporters have been accused of committing against the Suez Canal Authority and its chairman. Of these, he cites reports published earlier about violations in the Suez Canal expansion project, the electric control project, and the shipyard project. He promises to submit documents proving these violations to the attorney general.

A 1,500-word report by 'Ali al-Qammash on page 3 writes about Nabil Mishriqi, better known in the press as Madinat al-Nasr Shark, who is getting special treatment in jail. He wears civilian clothes, strolls freely around the court, and even runs his business from his "five-star" prison cell.

A 2,000-word report by 'Amir 'Id on page 3 writes about corruption in the North Alexandria Mills Company.

A 1,500-word report by Mahmud Bakri on page 3 deals with "big sharks" who seized 45,000 feddans [1.038 acres] of the most fertile arable land with the help of officials.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 29 Apr

NC0305201594

[Editorial Report] The following review of the 29 April issue of Cairo AL-SHA'B summarizes articles that are Islamic in nature.

CONTENTS:

1. Israel's Rabin Seeks Russian Accord Against Islamic Movements
2. Asyut Residents Criticize Police Handling of Islamic Groups
3. Sudanese Vice President, Others Address Islamic Conference
4. Party Official Attacks Regime, Notes 'Islamic Solution'
5. Doctors' Union Holds Conference in Support of Bosnian Muslims

ISRAEL'S RABIN SEEKS RUSSIAN ACCORD AGAINST ISLAMIC MOVEMENTS

In an approximately 140-word front-page report by Mahmud Bakri under the heading "U.S.-Russian-Israeli Agreement To Confront the Islamists," AL-SHA'B claims to have learned that Israeli Prime Minister Rabin's talks in Russia dealt with an agreement to confront the "growing" Islamic movements in the region. Information indicates, Bakri adds, that there is an intention to sign a strategic agreement between Israeli and Russian intelligence services in this regard, the first such accord between the two countries. Bakri states: "The information confirms that the Israeli proposals in this respect include one about finding a formula for tripartite cooperation involving Russia, Israel, and the United States within an integrated plan called "Handling Security in the Middle East."

The plan stipulates a tripartite cooperation based on halting all forms of agreement and military engagement between Russia and the Arab countries for fear that some Islamic trends may gain control over the sources of some of these weapons.

Bakri notes that the plan also provides for penetrating the security of some religious institutions and calls for interest in the role of research and information. The author concludes by saying that the tripartite plan's details are not yet clear but the U.S. side approved it earlier.

ASYUT RESIDENTS CRITICIZE POLICE HANDLING OF ISLAMIC GROUPS

A 180-word front-page report by Jahal Imbabi says that Asyut residents have denounced police excesses against the population, the violation of human rights, mass punishment, random shooting, and the wounding of innocent people. In interviews with AL-SHA'B, the report adds, people from various part of Asyut affirm that the police have handled the Islamic Group's "excesses" with their own "excess" against the population, which paid for "both sides' mistakes."

Imbabi claims the residents also criticized the state media policy and pointed out that undermining the legitimate parties, violating the trade unions, weakening al-Azhar's role, and rigging elections have found the youths lose hope in change through the ballot box.

SUDANESE VICE PRESIDENT, OTHERS ADDRESS ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

In an approximately 1,000-word report on pages 1 and 7 by Qutb al-Arabi from Khartoum on the opening of the 14th session of the Islamic Propagation Organization [IPO], the paper says the Sudanese vice president, Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, the chairman of the IPO Board of Trustees, Marshal 'Abd-al-Rahman Siwar-al-Dhahab, and Qatari Shari'ah College Dean Yusuf al-Qardawi addressed the delegates.

In his speech, the Sudanese vice president defended the Sudanese Government and Islam, saying: "The Sudanese Government has devoted itself to God in defense of Islam and the oppressed everywhere. The threats of the United States and the West do not frighten us because God is with us. We will not submit to the enemies of Islam and there will be no concessions on any of God's commandments unless it is over our dead bodies."

He gave his "assurance" to the Islamic nation that the Islamic regime in Sudan is "firm and able to confront the Islamic nation's enemies." He said: "We are a peaceful nation, do not wish to fight anyone, and have nothing to do with terrorism. But we have truly revived the spirit of jihad in the Sudanese people so that they can be vigilant and can defend themselves against any potential aggression."

In his address, the IPO official denounced the "world order that is hostile to Muslims." He noted that UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali halted a NATO decision to attack the Serbs in Gorazde because a British soldier had to be moved from there. Thus the UN secretary general was "concerned about one British soldier, yet did not care about 70,000 Muslim men and women besieged in Gorazde."

Defending the Sudanese Government and its Islamic policy, the Qatari Shari'ah College dean addressed the conference, saying Sudan will not bow and will only kneel before God. He added that Sudan will offer a great deal to the shari'ah so that it can live a "sound Islamic life." The author notes that the mufti of Albania was among those who addressed the inaugural session.

PARTY OFFICIAL ATTACKS REGIME, NOTES 'ISLAMIC SOLUTION'

Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn writes an approximately 3,000-word article on page five strongly criticizing the prime minister and other government officials for "corruption and mismanagement."

In his article, Husayn cites the government's "failed" policies in various economic, industrial, agricultural, and other spheres and accuses the prime minister of covering up fraud and corruption. He claims that the government acts on orders from world financial institutions and disregards people's interests. He says: "We" reject the U.S. "instructions" on Egypt's economy and adds that the IMF and World Bank promote their instructions on the grounds that these instructions represent the "Anglo-American school's" successful experiment in market economy. He remarks that what is good for the United States is not necessarily good for other countries. He says that the "Anglo-American school's principles of materialism and consumer inclination," which do not strike a balance between capital owners and the nation's interests, are not compatible with the "Islamic solution" in economics.

From the mere economic point of view, he says, a worker offers more effort as his loyalty to his establishment increases and as his sense of security and stability strengthens. He then claims that the "Anglo-American School" says the opposite and that "Asian experiments" led by Japan have proved that what "we" advocate on the basis of "Islam and tradition" is right.

Toward the end of his article, the author suggests: "Prolonging this situation is impossible. If national dialogue will not serve as a means to change this situation then it will be no more than a waste of time. At the very least the nation requires a guarantee for its humanity, demands rulers with resolve and a clean hand, and demands safety for its physical wellbeing, honor, and property." He adds: "At most, we should move toward a comprehensive change that will restore Islam to its dominant standing while all the religious Egyptians turn toward building a new civilization and a strong state that integrates and unites with its Arab brothers."

He claims: "We" do not agree with the advocates of violence, their methods or their vision of an Islamic solution, and asks: What is the use of rejection if there is no better alternative way?

The author concludes by contending: "The nation wants change; it wants it peacefully. But if you do not meet its wish, an explosion is inevitable."

DOCTORS' UNION HOLDS CONFERENCE IN SUPPORT OF BOSNIAN MUSLIMS

In an approximately 420-word report on page 7, AL-SHA'B's Khalid Yunus says various men addressed a "mass popular conference" organized by the Doctors' Association in support of Bosnian Muslims.

In his address, Dr. 'Abd-al-Hayy al-Faramawi, professor of Koranic interpretation at al-Azhar University, attributed the "tragedy" of the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina to the Muslim rulers' weakness and languor, which have led to the loss of Palestine, Eritrea, Somalia, Burma, Kashmir, and finally Bosnia-Herzegovina. Al-Faramawi is quoted as saying that resolving the Islamic nations' causes can be achieved by rulers who are conscious of such causes and want to see the "inviolability of Islamic blood" and respect for the ulema and the nation's belief in the "sanctity of all forms of jihad."

Addressing the conferees, Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali said: "History repeats itself. As Jerusalem fell amid the silence of the Islamic world, Bosnia falls today while no member country of the Islamic Conference Organization moves." He is cited as adding that the European countries and the United States do not know the "language of conscience" but know only their interests. He is also quoted calling for applying the Koran so that the nation can emerge from its predicament.

Dr. Ahmad al-Malat, deputy general guide of the Muslim Brotherhood, also addressed the conference, stressing the importance of every Muslim performing his duty toward "his brothers" in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He said: "The Islamic nation—both the rulers and the governed—has not played its role toward this unarmed people, although they belong to Islam, with which they conquered various parts of the world."

Palestinian Affairs

Oppositionists React to Signing of Self-Rule Accord

Islamic Jihad To Continue Intifadah

LD0305182994 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] The PLO representatives have reached agreement with the Zionist regime on maintaining security and dealing with judicial matters in Gaza and Jericho. On the basis of this agreement, the PLO police are not authorized to arrest or question the Zionists living in these regions, even if the Zionists sabotage security. On the other hand, the Zionist regime forces are allowed to arrest the Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, without handing them over to the PLO police. It has been arranged that Rabin, the prime minister of the Zionist regime, and 'Arafat, the PLO leader, should meet in Cairo tomorrow to finalize the outcome of the two sides' talks. Our correspondent in Beirut has interviewed the secretary general of the Palestine Islamic Jihad Movement [Dr. Shaqaqi] in Beirut on this meeting and the possible agreements at the meeting. We draw your attention to his report:

[Correspondent] Good evening, dear viewers of the Islamic Republic of Iran's television news. According to the remarks made by the secretary general of the Palestine Islamic Jihad Movement, tomorrow is the day of signing the final accord on Gaza and Jericho in Cairo. This will be classed as another day of defeat in the history of the Arabs and Palestine. During a telephone conversation with the Central News Unit office in Beirut today, he said: The issue of Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho is nothing more than a tool in the hand of the Zionists; and establishment of such an autonomous government does not realize the aspiration of the Palestinian mojahedin and combatants to create a true Palestinian state and government.

On the role played by the Palestinian forces opposed to the Gaza-Jericho accord, Dr. Shaqaqi said: At this stage the goal of all the combatants should remain continuation of the struggle and jihad for the unchanging Palestinian aspiration. It is up to the forces opposed to the peace with the Zionist regime to compile a comprehensive and calculated plan to fight the Zionist regime, even if such a struggle were to continue for another 20 years.

On the future of the intifadah after implementation of the Gaza-Jericho accord, he said: Far from being cxurtailed, the military operation will—in my opinion—intensify, even though continuation of the military operations under these circumstances will be difficult. We will, however, exert every effort.

PFLP, DFLP Declare Day of Mourning

JN0305180794 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 May 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] have declared tomorrow, Wednesday, a day of national mourning and have asked the people of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to observe a general strike.

In a statement distributed in the occupied territories today, the two fronts said that the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement will constitute one of the most dangerous and difficult periods in the Palestinian people's struggle because complete coordination now exists between the Palestinian side and the occupation forces, as the statement put it. [passage omitted]

Hamas Says 'Not Bound' by Accord

NC0305153994 Paris AFP in English 1502 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] Damascus, 3 May (AFP)—The radical Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas said Tuesday [3 May] it was not bound by agreements between Israel and the PLO.

In a statement to AFP here, Hamas denounced the self-rule deal for Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, which is due to be signed Wednesday in Cairo.

The accord was "contrary to the wishes of the Palestinian people," the statement said.

Hamas, which has its stronghold within the occupied territories, has claimed two recent suicide bombing attacks within Israel in which 13 Israelis were killed.

The statement also rejected an accord on the future economic relations between the two sides signed in Paris on April 29, saying it was the start of "Zionist hegemony in the region."

Ghawshah Denies Agreements Between Hamas, Fatah

PM0305151694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 May 94 ppl, 4

[Report by Mufid 'Awwad: "Ghawshah Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: No Agreements Between Hamas and Fatah; We Are Facing Pressures in Jordan and Britain"]

[Text] Amman—Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), has accused Fatah and Yasir 'Arafat's leadership in Tunis of "launching a misleading information campaign about political dialogues between the two movements with the aim of peddling the autonomy agreement."

He denied any agreements or meetings with Fatah other than the field agreement in the occupied Gaza Strip to prevent any tension between the Fatah Hawks and and the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions.

Ghawshah reaffirmed Hamas' rejection of autonomy and refusal to participate in the elections but emphasized that it is very much opposed to any Palestinian infighting. He denied the arrest of any of its members in Jordan but admitted that the movement is facing pressures in the Jordanian, British, and American arenas.

This was in an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the first by Ghawshah or any Hamas official for over two weeks since they stopped making statements after the pressures which followed recent operations in the occupied territory.

On the claims about a meeting between Hamas and Fatah in Cairo under the auspices of the Muslim Brotherhood there, he said that these were fabricated, unfounded reports and that the field meetings held in Rafah were for the purpose of tackling the issue of mutual kidnapping by the military organizations of the two movements to prevent the recurrence of such incidents and prevent any provocations or clashes.

He added that, as a result of that and following the large-scale arrest by Israel of Hamas members—reaching 3,000—after the 'Afula and al-Khudayrah operations, and following the pressure brought to bear on Hamas in several areas, especially in Jordan, the PLO's leadership, Yasir 'Arafat's leadership in Tunis, through its information organs, tried to spread these reports about political dialogues and claims that Hamas wants a place in the autonomy authority.

He said that Hamas has stopped its political dialogues with 'Arafat and the PLO leadership since 13 September 1993 when the Oslo agreement was signed. He revealed that Hamas rejected Arab mediation for the revival of dialogue between Hamas and 'Arafat and his leadership. He reaffirmed that that is still the Hamas position on that issue.

The Hamas spokesman urged the Palestinian police to play a patriotic role by defending the Palestinian people against the aggression of Israeli soldiers and settlers. He also said that the release of the Palestinian detainees from enemy prisons is a sensitive matter. He warned that the release of 5,000 supporters of the Oslo agreement and the failure to release 5,000 Hamas supporters and opponents of the agreement would cause a major crack in the Palestinian society. He rejected ideological discrimination as a basis for the release of prisoners because that would be blackmail. He drew attention to the "cunning Israeli link between the release of detainees and full amnesty for those who collaborate with Israel." He said that "the traitors must be punished."

Ghawshah said that his movement will maintain its information activity in Jordan on the grounds that Hamas' role [there] is informational and political and has nothing to do with the jihad military operations in Palestine because such operations are fully planned and carried out internally. He said that the role of the symbols and spokesmen of Hamas is to express daily political and informational positions within the current laws of any state they may be in.

More Names of National Authority Council Given

TA0305135194 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 2 May 94 p 16

[Text] AL-MANAR has learned from a senior Palestinian source that the Palestinian National Authority will comprise 25 members and will be headed by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. Among the names that will be announced next week are: Nasr Yusuf, Muhammad Ghunaym, Ahmad Quray', Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, Yasir 'Amr, Samir Ghawshah, 'Ali Ishaq, Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, Sulayman al-Najjab, Ilyas Frayj, Mahir al-Masri, Zakariya al-Agha, Dr. Hanna Nasir, Jamil al-Tarifi, Furayh Abu-Middayn, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, and Faysal al-Husayni.

The Palestinian source said that the complete list of names will be released soon, because consultations are still continuing and no agreement has been reached yet regarding the final, precise list. Consultations are under way within the Palestinian leadership and between the factions that support the peace process. The source added that this composition of the National Authority is transitional and for a defined period.

AL-MANAR has learned that all the members of the National Authority are supporters of the peace process and the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

Algeria

Authorities To Lift Curfew, Release Fundamentalists

LD0305210294 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1500 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] The Algerian authorities will lift the curfew in force since 1992 in ten governorates. They will also release three Islamic fundamentalist leaders.

'High-Level' Contacts Between FIS, France, U.S. Noted

PM0405131494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 May 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Jamal Khashuqji: "French and U.S. Contacts With Algerian Salvation Front"]

[Text] Paris, Algiers, AL-HAYAH—Reliable Islamic sources have confirmed to AL-HAYAH that high-level contacts have been made between an Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] leader abroad and both the French Government and the U.S. State Department. The sources described these contacts as "important," especially in view of the "deadlock" in the dialogue efforts between Algerian authorities and the FIS leadership detained in Algeria, which began on the eve of Major General Liamine Zeroual's assumption of the presidency.

The sources said that in their contacts with the FIS leader the French offered a plan to sponsor a dialogue between the FIS and the Algerian Government. However, the sources declined to reveal details of the plan. They pointed out that the Americans just stressed their neutrality and said they would not offer any aid to the present authorities in Algeria.

The sources said that these contacts came up against the principle of referring to the leaders in Blida prison, as FIS leaders do not decide on any radical plan before referring it to FIS leaders Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, who are detained in Blida military prison with two FIS shura council members.

The FIS has in the past announced its acceptance of the principle of negotiating—not holding a dialogue—with the ruling authorities. It set conditions for that, most importantly releasing FIS leaders and the other detainees, closing the concentration camps [al-muhtashadat] in the desert, resuming the electoral process, revoking the decision to disband the FIS, and judging "those who caused the bloodshed and staged the January 1992 coup," which led to the cancellation of the elections and disbandment of the FIS, which had won the first round of elections.

The sources, which asked to remain anonymous, said that the "judgment" question was at the top of the French and U.S. interlocutors' priorities. The sources added that the FIS continues to insist on this point. And that "the best it can offer is to turn a blind eye to their departure from Algeria before the FIS assumes power."

The sources interpreted the raising by the French and Americans of the question of "judging the officials" as an attempt to explore the FIS' position vis-a-vis the possibility of its agreeing to participate in power with some of the regime's elements.

But the FIS—according to the same sources—cannot "join hands with some elements whom it holds responsible for what has happened in Algeria over the past two years. However, it has no objection to dealing with the Army after removing the extremist elements from it under a national plan designed to restore stability and constitutional legitimacy to the country."

In Algiers, AL-HAYAH has learned that President Liamine Zeroual has presided over a meeting of the supreme command of the Army's General Staff. It is the first meeting of such importance held three [as published] days before the 8 May marches being staged in support of the dialogue.

No information has emerged about the topics discussed at the meeting. However, well-informed sources do not rule out that the meeting may have discussed the stage ahead with regard to the security, political, and economic aspects. They say it is likely to be "a meeting for assessing national dialogue" and discussing the changes expected in the coming weeks. Three [as published] days before the marches staged in support of the dialogue, incidents of violence and subversion have begun to emerge once again. More than 25 security and Army elements were assassinated in one day, the day before yesterday. These operations took place after a period of noticeable calm, as security forces had seized the initiative and showed they were in control of the security situation.

Observers interpret the resumption of the "show actions" which occurred in the capital and other areas as "a message of warning to the regime and public opinion to the effect that those whose issue this is, are still on the field."

Other sources say that these operations "are merely a reaction to the security forces' recent air bombardment of the Bouznika [as transliterated] area in Batna (east Algeria) and the killing of many members of the armed groups in Boumerdas (east of the capital)."

But corroborated information conveyed to AL-HAYAH says that the "calm" that has dominated the recent period is nothing but "an undeclared agreement" on a truce between the regime and the armed groups to show "good intentions" vis-a-vis the dialogue and national reconciliation.

'Source' on German Threat To Expel FIS Spokesman

LD0305213694 Tehran IRNA in English 2053 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] Athens, May 3, IRNA—The German Interior Ministry has threatend to expel the official spokesman of

Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in Europe, Rabeh Kabir, from the country if he issues any press statements or even gives telephone interviews, a source close to Kabir told IRNA Tuesday.

Kabir was given political asylum in Germany in February by the asylum authorities but the Interior Ministry has challenged the decision and the matter is in court now.

"Rabeh Kabir has to renew his stay permit every week or two. We fear that he may be expelled from Germany," said the source speaking to IRNA by phone from Germany.

"We are the representavites of the Algerian people but we are not allowed to speak. Where is the freedom of press and freeedom of opinion which they proclaim in Europe?" he asked. The source requested anonymity.

German authorities had held Kabir in custody for three months last year, but he was set free after a court rejected an extradition request by the Algerian regime.

Egypt

Mubarak Meets Kozyrev, Calls Ties 'Excellent'

NC0305174694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1625 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 3 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Following his audience with Mubarak today, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev also said that the message invites President Mubarak to visit Moscow soon. He added that he believes the visit will be made soon.

Kozyrev said that President Mubarak has a broad and unique view of the region and its problems.

He praised the excellent relations between Presidents Mubarak and Yeltsin and added that he congratulated President Mubarak on his birthday tomorrow, which coincides with a historic event, namely, the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli Agreement. He said Russia is looking forward to this day and this celebration, which will crown the strenuous efforts exerted to solve this difficult problem.

He went on to say that President Mubarak has declared Egypt's commitment to continue its peace process efforts. He added that Russia too is committed as a cosponsor of the Middle East peace efforts on the other tracks.

He stressed in this regard that Russia is committed to every track and that it maintains constant contact with Damascus. He said that Russia is trying to bring the Syrian and Israeli viewpoints closer and their outcome will appear later.

The Russian foreign minister stressed that his country supports the Palestinian issue politically and diplomatically. He noted that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat was in Moscow two weeks ago and held detailed talks with the Russian leadership. He said: We will help the Palestinians with some technical means to enable them to deal with whatever problems they might face in the stage after next, such as problems relating to borders.

Mubarak Receives South Korean Envoy

NC0305183594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1755 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 3 May (MENA)—This evening in the Presidential Office, President Husni Mubarak received Dr. Han Wan-sang, personal envoy [name and title as received] of South Korean President Kim Yong-sam, who is visiting Egypt.

The Korean envoy said he delivered a message to President Mubarak from the South Korean president. He praised the relations linking Egypt and South Korea, noting that it is high time to develop these relations to the full to face up to the challenges following the Cold War era.

Touching on developments in Korea, the envoy said that ties of cooperation between the two Koreas could be developed if North Korea abandons its nuclear activity. In that case, our country could extend assistance to North Korea to help it become a full-fledged member of the international community and we could work together to achieve regional stability, he said.

Musa, Japanese Minister Review Talks

NC0305140794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Japanese Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa held a news conference following their talks at noon today. Musa said the talks dealt with many bilateral, regional, and international issues. They also dealt with the peace process and issues of concern to Asia, Africa, and the Arab world. The Japanese foreign minister said he was happy that Egypt was the first country he was visiting after the formation of the new Japanese Government. The visit, he said, comes at an important time, with the peace process witnessing the major development of the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli Agreement. He said he would be glad to attend the signing ceremony.

Kakizawa said Egypt and Japan are playing roles to help solve regional and international problems. He said today's talks were an important step toward boosting bilateral ties and entrenching the international role of the two countries. He stressed the importance of Egypt's African and Arab role and said Japan is eager to hold the necessary consultations with Egypt.

The Japanese foreign minister expressed regret at the postponement of President Mubarak's scheduled visit to

Japan last month. He said Japan hopes the visit will take place as soon as possible and at the right time. He said he would meet President Mubarak today to tell him that Japan is willing to renew the invitation to his excellency to visit.

[In a related Cairo-datelined report, Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1210 GMT on 3 May cites Dr. Yusuf Butrus Ghali, minister of state for international cooperation, as saying that today he signed two agreements with the Japanese foreign minister. Under the first, Japan will provide a grant of around $40 million of equipment to Luxor Hospital. Under the second, Japan will provide about the same amount as a grant to repair a tunnel. The minister also said that in a step reflecting Japan's confidence in Egypt's economic reform program, "the Japanese foreign minister also announced that Japan would guarantee Japanese investments in Egypt."]

U.S. Said Exerting Pressure on Copts' Rights

NC0305211194 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 27 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by Midhat al-Zahid, Sami Fahmi, and Hazim Munir]

[Text] AL-AHALI has obtained important information that explains the background of the attempt to involve Egypt's Copts in a conference on minorities in the Arab world and also exposes the schemes behind such conferences.

An informed Egyptian source has confirmed that U.S. diplomats have been persistently exerting pressure over the past few months during several meetings with Egyptian officials in Cairo and Washington to form a new committee in the People's Assembly to deal with human rights. The source said that the discussions revealed that the notion goes beyond the concept of human rights to what the Americans term the protection of the minorities' right to hold religious rites and to protect religious freedom in Egypt.

Egyptian officials rejected the U.S. ideas because of their inherent dangers threatening the Egyptian people's single national fabric and the sectarian seditions they might inflame, particularly since religious rights in Egypt are already protected and waves of terrorism and bigotry are threatening all Egyptians without exception.

Groups in the United States have tried to exploit the Dayr al- Muharraq incident in an attempt to incite international public opinion against what they termed the persecution campaign against Copts in Egypt and to demand international protection for the Copts on the pretext that the government is not protecting them and not bringing those who attack them to trial. Coptic leaders in Egypt have rejected these attempts and His Holiness Pope Shanudah III issued a statement stressing that Egypt's Copts are not a minority and he does not want any party to label them as such. He said that the Copts are part of Egypt's national fabric. In an interview with AL-AHALI, the pope stressed that the cohesiveness of the homeland's sons is a guarantee of stability against terrorism.

The crisis resulting from the minority rights conference—which the Ibn-Khaldun Center for Development Studies is organizing in cooperation with the London-based International Society for the Protection of Minorities' Rights—continues to create problems. The Sudanese and Iraqi governments have told the Arab League, through private channels, that they are opposed to discussing the problems of the Kurds and south Sudan at the international conference scheduled to be held in Cairo next month while the international coalition forces are undertaking what they term the protection of Kurds in northern Iraq. This undertaking in fact threatens Iraq's territorial integrity, while the Iraqi people remain under siege.

Khartoum has also protested the presence of John Garang in Cairo and the discussion of the south Sudan issue at an international conference.

In a last attempt to save the minority rights conference, Dr. Sa'd-al-Din Ibrahim announced that the issue of Egypt's Copts has been removed from the agenda and that the conference will be amended by adding peoples' rights to minority rights.

According to AL-AHALI's information, UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd- al-Majid, and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa will not, as previously announced, attend the conference or send messages to it. AL-AHALI's information also confirms that many of those invited to attend have turned down invitations to attend, send papers, or participate in its sessions.

AL-WAFD Editor Resigns Over Banned Article

NC0305160294 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 29 Apr 94 p 1

[Text] Jamal Badawi, chief editor of the newspaper AL-WAFD, has submitted his resignation following the crisis that flared up from the banning of the publication of Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal's article, to which the newspaper referred the Wednesday before last [20 April].

Sources confirm that Wafd Party Leader Fu'ad Siraj-al-Din has not made a decision on the resignation as yet. Yasin Siraj-al-Din is still trying to contain the crisis. If the resignation is accepted, Deputy Chief Editor Sa'id 'Abd-al-Khaliq will lead the list of candidates to replace Badawi as chief editor of the daily edition of the newspaper. AL-WAFD sources nominate Ayman Anwar as chief editor of the weekly edition.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Defies 'Crusading Enemies'

LD0305143894 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 May 94

[Speech by leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at Masallatah on 2 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] In continuation of the defiance festivities, and in affirmation of preparedness for confrontation and for standing up to the schemes of the crusading enemies who are hostile to the Arab nation and the Great Jamahriyah, the citadel of pan-Arabism and freedom in the world, and in entrenchment of the historic cohesiveness between the leader and the masses, the masses of Masallatah yesterday welcomed the brother leader of the revolution. They chanted loud slogans expressing the eternal ties between the masses and the leader of their revolution, the symbol of their pride and dignity, the builder of their civilization and the fulfiller of their dreams to live freely on earth.

Amid the masses rubbing shoulders with him, the brother leader of the revolution made the following address:

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Brothers, we let them hear our voice once again from Masallatah, the beacon of knowledge and land of jihad. We let them hear our voice from this place which was the bridge through which the Italian occupation forces in 1911 tried to cross to Tarhunah and to the east, as they used to call the region. But the invading forces, brothers, could cross only over the bodies of your fathers and grandfathers in well-known battles. [passage omitted]

Brothers, we are proud of and cherish these eternal battles from our history. They give us inspiration to confront the new enemies, neo-fascism, the new crusade, the new Western colonial campaign.

We confront them today at a time when we are stronger than before, more numerous, with more equipment, and with more preparedness to face up to our enemies. [passage omitted] Brothers, we are stronger than before, and therefore our resistance will be more fierce, more violent than that of our fathers and grandfathers.

Their banners will never again be raised on this land. The banners of freedom will always float over this land. We are prepared to offer more sacrifices to impose our will on the greedy and the covetous. [passage omitted]

The free Libyan people are now defying those who are even stronger than Italy; it is challenging U.S. imperialism and its unjust allies. We here challenge the three isolated states which are swimming against the tide: the United States, Britain, and France. We challenge them here with, on our side, the peoples, the regional organizations, the international organizations, the strugglers for freedom in all the continents of the world. The United States, Britain, and France are internationally condemned states, internationally isolated states. They have no means other that the stick and carrot method, and using the Security Council by force, with falsehood and lies.

Thanks to your stand, O courageous Libyans, the three states America, Britain, and France are isolated and condemned. They are acting against the international community, against the United Nations, and they have nothing left before them except tearing up the UN Charter, trampling on international law, and making the Security Council vote by force in favor of their unjust resolutions.

The steadfast stand of the Libyan people has made the entire world support the wronged Libyan people, the Libyan people that have right on their side, the Libyan people that ask only for freedom on the land of their fathers and grandfathers.

We are facing big states, however they are isolated states; they are condemned by the international community; all the world's peoples are today cursing the United States, Britain, and France.

We are supported by the peoples of the Arab nation, even if their leaders have submitted, even if their leaders betray us, even if the leaders become weak. We are supported by masses that stretch from the Atlantic to the Gulf; you are supported by the peoples of the Arab nations; these people who own the veto right which has more power than the veto of the UN Security Council; the veto that the Somali people had used represents full evidence of what I am saying, brothers.

Let us raise our voices even higher; we are the people of the land, and right is on our side [words indistinct], we have a right to liberty, we have the right to live free on our land. We fight, brothers, we will do so with honor; we will fight with force because we will never relinquish the land of our ancestors.

As for the others, they will fight with dishonor, they will base their fight on experience; they will weigh up their losses and gains because they will be fighting on a land that is not theirs; they are the aggressors. Whereas we, when the time of confrontation comes, will be stronger than they; because we own this land; this land on which we walk is the land of our fathers and ancestors.

What is important, brothers, is that their feet will tremble on this land because they are aggressors and greedy people; we are not greedy, we only defend our right to live; whereas they defend the right to reap profits from uncalculated adventures. Let them try the confrontation with the Libyan people who are ready for this.

Brothers, I urge you to be ready to embark on the battle of confrontation and the confrontation of defiance using any type of weapons. Victory will be ours regardless.

Al-Qadhdhafi, Egyptian Correspondents Meet

PM0305151994 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 May 94 p 4

[Report by Ashraf al-Faqiyy: "Al-Qadhdhafi: We Are Seeking to Close Lockerbie File Politically Without Abandoning Libya's Sovereignty and Laws"]

[Text] Tripoli—Libyan Leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has sent a message to Mrs. Baha' al-Kikhya, wife of former Libyan Foreign Minister Mansur al-Kikhya, in which he stressed that those behind her husband's disappearance "will not get away with their crime." He pointed out that security cooperation between Egypt and Libya "will succeed in revealing details of this case." Al-Qadhdhafi accused the CIA and its agents among the "stray dogs" of kidnapping al-Kihkya "with a view to driving a wedge between Egypt and Libya." He expressed willingness to look after al-Kikhya's wife and children. Al-Qadhdhafi uses the phrase "stray dogs" to refer to those opposed to his regime.

Al-Qadhdhafi met a delegation of Egyptian journalists the day before yesterday evening in a bedouin tent among olive and almond trees in al-Khadra' area, some 56 km southwest the capital, Tripoli.

Al-Qadhdhafi criticized during the meeting the current peace process in the Middle East. He also stressed that the country does not intend to hand over the two Libyan nationals suspected of involvement in the blowing up of the PanAm plane over Lockerbie. He spoke about the reasons that prompted Libya to announce its wish to withdraw from the Arab League.

On the Palestinian-Israeli talks and the signing of the Gaza-Jericho agreement in Cairo tomorrow, Wednesday, he said that "Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat is chasing a mirage, and the Palestinian people are not just one individual."

He said that "the Palestinians negotiating with Israel are not the custodians of the cause. The real custodians of the cause are Hamas, the Islamic Jihad, the stone-throwing children, the Palestinian people scattered throughout the world, and the 10 Palestinian factions rejecting the so-called Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles agreement. He expressed his belief that 'Arafat's agreement to continue to negotiate with Israel is attributable to "Arab positions that have annoyed him."

He said that recovering Jericho and Gaza "does not mean the Palestinian issue has been resolved or that the Palestinian people have accepted this agreement." Addressing 'Arafat, he wondered: "How can you agree to befriend and embrace the Jews, when Palestinian martyrs, including members from Fatah itself, are falling in the occupied territories?"

He added that "the slogan being raised for the so-called peace talks means the Arabs' unconditional surrender to their enemy. It means their humiliation, abandonment of their future, and harming posterity."

He said: "We are not warmongers; we are advocates of peace. But what is happening at present is a deception for both the Jews and the Arabs. The Jews are deceived in order to get rid of them from world states, namely by deporting them to the occupied Palestinian territories under the Promised Land slogan. As for the Arabs, they are deceived so that they waste time and squander their cause (...) The land of promise will become the land of death."

He urged the Jews to "return to their homelands." He welcomed "the return of the Libyan Jews living in Israel to their country." He said: "If there is a real desire for peace, those in charge of the peace process in the Middle East must take South Africa as a model to grant the Palestinian people their rights and hold free elections in the occupied Palestinian territories under UN supervision. He stressed that such a measure would lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state.

On Libya's continuation in the Arab League, al-Qadhdhafi said: "The decision to withdraw [from the Arab League] in February was taken to make room for Israel to join the league after Libya's withdrawal from it. The decision was taken in protest at the positions of some Arab states which have turned the league's task into a process of talking about ending the economic boycott of Israel and entering into projects with the Hebrew state, instead of talking about Arab unity."

He added that he and Dr.'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, secretary general of the Arab League, had agreed over the telephone to delay a decision on Libya's decision to withdraw from the league. He stressed that Libya has for the time being abandoned the idea of withdrawing from the league. He said: "Libya is currently experiencing a period of truce with the Arab states."

Al-Qadhdhafi supported the league's proposal concerning trying the two Lockerbie case suspects at the International Court of Justice in The Hague before Scottish judges and in accordance with the rules of Scottish law.

Al-Qadhdhafi renewed his country's nonobjection to handing over suspects al-Amin Khalifah Fahimah and 'Abd-al-Basit al-Miqrahi if the United States and Britain agree to this proposal, which has "embarrassed the Western states concerned with the crisis with Libya." He pointed out that his country will continue its endeavors to close this file through political means. "But it does not mean abandoning Libya's sovereignty or laws."

He stressed that "any western escalation of the crisis will be confronted by Libyan steadfastness, no matter how long it takes." He praised "Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's efforts to solve the Libyan-Western crisis."

On his position on the Arab states' compliance with the international embargo imposed on Libya, al-Qadhdhafi said that "the Arab League has not spared any efforts to help Libya. But it has no powers to adopt a resolution to compel the Arab states to refuse to apply Security Council resolutions." He said that that "the Libyan people are saddened by the Arab planes' boycott of Libyan airports."

Al-Qadhdhafi said that President Bill Clinton is "a good man seeking peace. But his Republican predecessors, Ronald Reagan and George Bush, set up traps for him in Somalia, Iraq, and Libya to topple him or force him to pursue their line." Al-Qadhdhafi warned Clinton of the same fate as that of former U.S. President John Kennedy, "who was the victim of a plot hatched by intelligence organs and major monopoly companies." He described Clinton as "an unaggressive man who opposed the Vietnam war. And he represents the Democrats, a grouping for the minorities."

Al-Qadhdhafi, who, the day before yesterday, held a popular rally in Tarhunah, 70 km from the capital, which was attended by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, urged Syria "not to negotiate with Israel over withdrawal from the Golan Heights." He also stressed that his country "will not recognize Israel, no matter for how long the blockade imposed on it continues." He called for "the removal of the Hebrew state from the Arab region."

JANA Examines Remarks of Israeli Prime Minister

LD0305215194 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] The Israeli prime minister has declared it was high time Israel ended its domination over a foreign people and reconciled with the Palestinians. In this statement he made yesterday before the ruling Labor party, Rabin said: Israel can remain an occupying force. However, he added: It is high time the Israelis realized the price for this will would be to pay with their blood.

JANA's political editor commented on this report and said: Can we infer from the statement made by the Israeli prime minister that he has come to his senses, albeit late, or is it merely another verbal maneuvering? We would like to think the Israelis, who are strangers in Palestine, have come to their senses and they have realized that their presence on a land alien to them and against the will of its original inhabitants and its real owners will cause their destruction and ruin.

Therefore, those who were fetched from Europe, America, and other regions must return to their original homelands where they will lead a peaceful life and they must leave Palestine to its owners. Unless this happens, the Israelis will continue to face a devastating danger; and if they want to be safe, they must reject the plans of the Christian West, which hates them and wants their destruction.

UK Media Accused of Concealing Facts Over Lockerbie

LD0305211094 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] The UK newspaper THE INDEPENDENT has reported that the relatives of the victims of the Lockerbie accident are divided over a documentary film about this accident. This has prompted British official circles to intervene to prevent its showing, under the pretext that it would influence the course of the investigation into the affair. Although the Great Jamahiriyah has nothing to do with this film, the British media are endeavoring to conceal facts from the British people and they pick out what serves Britain's colonial purposes without respecting the truth and without showing any desire to let the British masses know all the facts. This is the method used by the western states to black out the facts of this affair.

Kuwait

MP Comments on Statements Attributed to U.S. Congressman

LD0305190594 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] Kuwait City, 4 May, KUNA—Nasir al-Rawdan, the second deputy prime minister and finance minister, announced today the government's intention to impose taxes "based on a studied method that will not hurt the citizen"; and an intention to reduce the level of tax exemptions enjoyed by some imported goods.

Al-Rawdan explained that the aim behind this decision was to increase the state's revenue and deal with the mounting budget deficit. He indicated, at the same time, that the relative reduction announced in the first chapter of next year's budget, which is being discussed by the appropriate committee of the National Assembly, will not affect the wages and salaries of staff of the state sector.

This announcement was made during a session of the National Assembly, which was chaired by Speaker Ahmad al-Sa'dun, during which a draft-reply to the Amir's speech was submitted to the Amir of Kuwait. The session also adopted three laws submitted by the government.

During the session, Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud al-Nasir al-Sabah played down the importance of the statements regarding Kuwait, which were recently attributed to a member of the U.S. Congress.

Minister al-Sabah described these statements as "not representative in any way of the opinion of the friendly U.S. people, who support Kuwait's right in its legitimate demands vis-a- vis the Iraqi regime."

In this connection, the members of the National Assembly underlined the planned visit of a delegation from the National Assembly to the United States in the middle of this month. They are pinning great hopes on this visit to explain Kuwaiti positions regarding the situation in the Gulf region, and improve Kuwait's image abroad.

'Reliable Sources' on Secret Iraqi-Kuwaiti Meeting

PM0405095694 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 30 Apr-1 May 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Secret Kuwaiti-Iraqi Meeting in Algeria for First Time Since Gulf War"]

[Excerpts] Rabat—AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI has learned from reliable sources that Algeria is making active diplomatic efforts to conduct a mediation between Iraq and Kuwait. And that a meeting was actually held in Algiers recently between Iraqi and Kuwaiti officials for the first time since the Gulf war.

The sources said that Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad's visit to Algiers during his Maghreb tour this week was not actually made at the invitation of the Algerian Foreign Ministry as mentioned in the joint press statement issued at the end of the visit. It was made at the Kuwaiti foreign minister's request and in response to the Kuwaiti Government's attempt to break the isolation imposed on Kuwait since the Gulf war.

But Algeria, on receiving the Kuwaiti request, proposed—or, rather, made it a condition—that Algerian mediation should be initiated between Kuwait and Iraq during the Kuwaiti foreign minister's visit in return for announcing that the visit was made at the Algerian Foreign Ministry's invitation.

Kuwait agreed to the Algerian proposal and hence the visit took place. The Algerian Foreign Ministry believes the visit will achieve success for it with regard to the two countries, Iraq and Kuwait. [passage omitted]

The sources said that Kuwait's attempts to achieve rapprochement with the Arab states that supported Iraq in the Gulf war began not so long ago.

In this connection Kuwait sent two ministers to Algeria before Foreign Minister Sabah al-Ahmad's visit. These visits were not covered by the official media because of Kuwait's refusal in the past to receive any Algerian official. [passage omitted]

It is worth mentioning that the Kuwaiti foreign minister's visit took place only two weeks after the visit to Algeria by Barzan al-Tikriti, adviser to the Iraqi president, who delivered a message to Algerian President Liamine Zeroual from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

No information was issued about Barzan's visit. His activities remained almost secret. Even Iraqi Embassy officials in Algiers did not know the reason for Barzan's visit to Algeria or its results. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Salih Inspects al-Thawrah Camp in 'Imran

JN0305132994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, paid an inspection visit to the al-Thawrah camp in 'Imran today. He inspected the forces of the 1st Armored Brigade, the 5th Brigade, and the Central Security Forces in 'Imran.

During the visit, he was acquainted with the results of the acts of sabotage and the damage inflicted on the buildings and equipment in the camp, which resulted from the regrettable incidents that took place in the camp on Wednesday and Thursday. These incidents were caused by the secessionist elements in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], as a prelude to implementing their scheme to foment fighting between the comrades-in-arms to fragment the homeland and to return to the situation as it was before 22 May 1990 with the objective of guaranteeing their destructive selfish interests.

During the visit, the brother president also acquainted himself with the conditions of the camp's personnel, and congratulated them for their safety. He extended his condolences to the martyrs' families, to the masses of our people, and Armed Forces on the martyrs of unity and democracy from the personnel of the 1st and 3d Armored Brigades who fell in these regrettable incidents. He also expressed his deep regret and sorrow over the regrettable incidents at the 'Imran camp.

YSP Official on 'Attempt To Eliminate' Southern Units

PM0305114494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 30 Apr 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Iqbal 'Ali 'Abdallah: "Yasin Nu'man Tells AL-HAYAH: There Are Military Movements Aimed at Eliminating All Southern Units in the North"]

[Excerpts] Aden—In the first statement by a leading Yemeni Socialist party [YSP] official on the serious military situation in some Yemeni areas, Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, chairman of the YSP Central Committee Secretariat, has told AL-HAYAH that there is an "attempt to eliminate the southern military units present in northern governorates, beginning with the 5th Brigade and the 3rd Tank Brigade in 'Imran. There are continued provocations aimed against the other units, especially the Basahib Brigade in Dhamar." [passage omitted]

He stressed that, "despite the continued attempts to lift the siege on the southern brigades in the north and the remaining units of the 3rd Brigade in 'Imran, these efforts have been obstructed by a rejectionist position from the other side and the military command belonging to the General People's Congress [GPC] led by Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council." [passage omitted]

He added: "We hold the GPC leadership fully responsible for all the dangers and seditions that may afflict the homeland as a result of these actions."

The chairman of the YSP Central Committee Secretariat urged "political forces and the Dialogue Committee to condemn these ugly actions in order to prevent a repetition of the tragedies on which this leadership has embarked." [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Views Developments in Crisis, Mediation

JN0305150694 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 2-8 May 94 pp 30-31

[Interview with Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah by 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Mu'ayyad; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-Mu'ayyad] In your opinion, where is the Yemeni crisis heading and how can it be brought to an end?

[Basindwah] I think certain elements of the party responsible for touching off the crisis will insist on maintaining it. They could have ended it when they got most of their demands. However, perhaps they want to remedy the situation, and perhaps they want more. Therefore, I expect the crisis to last for a long time, until it turns into an internal party dispute. Then, there will be a relaxation.

[Al-Mu'ayyad] Will this relaxation prevent a military explosion?

[Basindwah] The crisis could get worse and then abate again. Some limited military clashes could also take place. At worst, there might be individual assassinations. I can say for sure, however, that there will be no civil war or separation. Separation means war, and no one wants war in Yemen, unless God deprives sane people of their reason. Separation is a crime; civil war is a dire catastrophe.

[Al-Mu'ayyad] It has been argued recently that a federation, rather than a merger of unity, is the only way out of the crisis and the guarantee to prevent separation. Is this an objective view?

[Basindwah] With due respect to those who promote this view, I think that federation is the first step toward fragmentation and disunity. In addition, why do we need federation when we are one unified people who share the same origin, religion, and language. We do not have ethnic, religious, or native-language minorities. Let alone the fact that we have coalesced in one melting pot of long struggle, generation after generation, in view of our sense of unified national belonging. Yemen is one country, not two; one people, not two. The best evidence of the unity of land and people is that we used to view the north as one part, the south as another. We never regarded them as two countries or states, even when each of them was a separate state. In addition, why call for a confederation when the accord document stipulates that the country should be divided into regions, each enjoying local government.

[Al-Mu'ayyad] Do you expect a new government to be formed to implement the accord document and restore order?

[Basindwah] This might happen if the crisis continues unabated.

[Al-Mu'ayyad] What about the mediation efforts being made by Egypt and the United Arab Emirates [UAE]?

[Basindwah] Their good offices are continuing. Ambassador Badr Hammam, the assistant foreign minister and envoy of the Egyptian president, has continued his meetings in Sanaa and Aden since his arrival in Yemen on this his third visit. Perhaps the purpose of his visit is to gauge conflicting views and determine points of agreement to crystallize a plan for reaching an agreement before calling any meeting. [passage omitted]

[Al-Mu'ayyad] Has a date been fixed for a meeting between the president and the vice president, and when do you expect it?

[Basindwah] The reason why the leaders in Cairo and Abu Dhabi are in no hurry to invite the president, his deputy, and Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, leader of the Yemeni Reform Grouping, is because they want to make sure it will succeed, lest its failure should lead to more frustration on the part of the Yemeni people and the Arabs. There is no doubt, however, that Egypt and the UAE can help us overcome the crisis and heal the rift in the relationship between the parties of the ruling coalition. [passage omitted]

Politburo 'Source' Comments on President's Actions

EA0305195794 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] A source in the politburo of the Yemeni Socialist Party issued a press statement yesterday, in which it expressed regret that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih continues his tragic play, after he had announced yesterday the killings of the 3d Motorized Brigade and the 1st Motorized Brigade, in front of a number of officers and members of the brigade who have been detained during the criminal aggression on the 3d Brigade on 27 April, by using not less than four brigades with various weapons. For three days he has been personally leading these brutal massacres against the 3d Motorized Brigade, during which he refused to listen to the national, Arab and international forces demanding a stop to these massacres. After finishing his assignment, he came to say that 'Ali Salim al-Bid has been making a fuss in the world by contacting the Arab leaders for stopping the battle. In his speech the president spoke of the millionaires who keep their financial credits in foreign banks when wanting not to be opening the door because its odor is nasty—but those who got used to nasty odors lose their sense of smell. To refer some of the secret international settlers for people to have [words indistinct] the leaders of the influential family are among the elite of the richest men in the world. The president used unfamiliar language in his speech in which he spoke much about Islam, the region, the religion, marxism etc. Perhaps this necessitated by the alliance with Islam, but [words indistinct] in the speech, but it puts on the speaker not his real garment. Then after that he spoke about the separatists. We do not know who are the separatists. Are they those who went to Sanaa with their children and families and the best military equipment and the units they have, according to what he said in his speech, or those who were entrenched behind their (?fascist) systems to impose their own projects, which led the country to this obstructive crisis. The planned attack on the 3d Motorized Brigade is the president's way of merging the Armed Forces.

House Chairmanship Urges Armed Forces To Protect Unity

JN0405075194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 May 94

["Appeal" by the chairmanship of the House of Representatives to the Armed and Security Forces; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praised be God who said: And hold fast, all together, by the rope which God stretches out for you, and be not divided among yourselves. God also said: And fear the trial which affecteth not in particular only those of you who do wrong [Koranic verses]. God's peace and blessings be upon the honest messenger and his relatives and companions. Following the military developments and ensuing tensions, the House of Representatives chairmanship expresses extreme regret over the continued developments, deeming them an execution of the wishes of the enemies of unity and democracy. Thus, the House chairmanship appeals to all the personnel, noncommissioned officers, and officers of the Armed and Security Forces—Yemen's great (?shield)—throughout all camps and positions in the Republic of Yemen to show wisdom and self-restraint and to reject any conspiracy calling for infighting. The House chairmanship considers this a human, ethical, moral, and national responsibility resting with the personnel of the Armed and Security Forces. History will register for them this great position, which calls for maintaining souls, property, and, most importantly, the Yemeni unity—the crowning achievement of their determined struggle.

The House chairmanship holds the brother chairman of the Presidential Council and members of the Presidential Council fully responsible for the bloodshed, destruction, and threats to unity. We beseech God to guide our steps along the right path.

Southern Aircraft Downed by Northern Forces

NC0305183694 London MBC Television in Arabic 1817 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] We have just received a report saying that a military source in Sanaa has stated that northern Yemeni forces deployed in the southern parts of the country have downed a southern military aircraft. The source told REUTER that the MiG-21 was downed by ground fire last night when a number of southern aircraft tried to fly provocative sorties over the northerners' 2d Armored Brigade in Lahij in south Yemen.

MBC Reports Troop Movements in South Yemen

NC0305185794 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] A military spokesman in Aden today accused northern armored forces of encircling a southern brigade and of taking up fighting positions in an area adjacent to the southern 1st Brigade in Yarim.

The southern Yemeni spokesman warned of the consequences of involving the country in a destructive civil war, particularly after last week's clashes between southern and northern military units in the 'Imran area which left more than 200 soldiers killed or wounded and caused heavy losses of equipment.

GPC Member Said Involved in Makki Assassination Attempt

JN0305194794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] Sanaa, 3 May (INA)—A Yemeni Interior Ministry source today revealed the parties behind the criminal assassination attempt on the life of Hasan Muhammad Makki, the Yemeni first deputy prime minister, last Thursday.

In a statement tonight, the source said that preliminary investigations conducted by the competent authorities have proven the involvement of Shaykh Naji 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Shayif, who is member of the General Committee, which is the highest leadership at the General People's Congress [GPC], in the assassination attempt in which eight of his loyalists took part.

The source pointed out that the Yemeni authorities have failed to arrest Shaykh Naji al-Shayif because he and his loyalists fled the Yemeni capital, Sanaa, on Monday.

More on Assassination Attempt

JN0405060094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Following the sinful attempt on the life of brother struggler Dr. Hasan Muhammad Makki, first deputy prime minister, in which he was severely wounded and his chauffeur, Ahmad Saghir Abu-Bakr, and his companions First Lieutenant Salih 'Abdallah Ghayban and Lt. Ahmad Muhammad al-Ahdam were martyred, after having put up an heroic resistance and having hit a number of the assailants, the Interior Ministry officials chased the attackers, who fled to the home of Shaykh Naji 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Shayif, who, in turn, handed over five persons to the ministry as the perpetrators. However, upon questioning these five, it emerged that the real assailants were still at Shaykh al-Shayif's, who, it turned out was harboring them.

Accordingly, the Interior Ministry issued an arrest warrant for Shaykh al-Shayif as the suspected instigator of the crime and for harboring its perpetrators. Other arrest warrants were issued against the perpetrators.

Eight suspects are now in custody. The investigation revealed that the shaykh is also harboring other suspects. Instead of heeding the orders issued by the Interior Ministry and turning himself in as mandated by law, he barricaded himself in his home, along with a large number of his friends. At dawn on Monday, he managed to sneak out of the capital, along with a number of the suspects.

The Interior Ministry condemns this reckless behavior, and holds Shaykh al-Shayif responsible for incitement to commit this hideous crime and for harboring its perpetrators. They have to present themselves to the law enforcement authorities so justice can take its course. The ministry will take all the security and legal measures required to bring the accused to justice.

Artillery Brigade Reportedly Surrounded in Yarim

EA0305211794 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] A responsible source in the Defense Ministry has stated the following: A dangerous development in the military incidents being directed by the ruling family in Sanaa has occurred. A number of Republican Guard, Central Security Force, tank, and armored vehicle units have taken up positions around the 1st Artilley Brigade in Yarim. The brigade's position became dangerous around 1200 today, when crowds [as heard] successively bore down on them. The Defense Ministry has briefed local, Arab, and international public opinion on the acts being carried out by the military command in Sanaa, and it places full responsibility on these rulers, whose appetite has been whetted by infighting among the sons of the homeland, the waste of their blood, and the resulting grave consequences. These events place the country on the brink of a devastating civil war that will destroy everything.

Statement Reports Activities of Southern Army

JN0405063494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 May 94

[Statement issued by Defense Ministry and General Staff Command spokesman; place and date not given]

[Text] Even as the homeland was still recovering from the bloody wounds of the regrettable 'Imran tragedy, which was caused by the gang of apostasy and secession in the Yemeni Socialist Party leadership as part of its criminal scheme to fragment the homeland, and instead of learning a lesson from that tragic incident in which the homeland lost some of its best army personnel and was the biggest loser, that gang continued to escalate the military situation, fabricating and inflaming tension in the homeland without the least sense of responsibility or remorse. It is currently issuing orders to move and mass forces in the direction of the old border areas.

Yesterday, 3 May, it moved the 'Abbas, (Tasyir), and Milhim Brigades toward the former border areas in the Shabwah axis. This is a new link in the chain of escalation and tension which reveals the aggressive ambitions of this criminal gang and its hostile stand toward the Yemeni people and Yemeni unity. It barricaded itself behind these military units over which it practices its hegemony, turning them into a sword brandished against Yemeni unity. It did so after obstructing all sincere efforts to merge the Armed Forces and rebuild them on national and scientific bases, prevent party affiliations within their ranks, and keep them away from party and regional influences and political conflicts. It refused to apply the law banning party membership in the Armed Forces, considering these forces a national institution and the property of all the people as well as a shield that protects the homeland and its unity. It sought to sabotage the institutionalized and disciplinary structure of the Armed Forces through a series of unpatriotic and irresponsible acts. It enlisted into the Armed Forces party-affiliated groups who had nothing to do with the military. They were given grants, rank, and promotions in a haphazard and illegal manner and were instigated and wrongly indoctrinated to split national ranks.

The source added: Today, we call on the heroes of the valiant Armed Forces in the units over which the party maintains a tight grip and in whose ranks the party exercises the process deception, charlatanism, and forgery, to express their national and responsible stand in favor of the people, homeland, unity, and constitutional legitimacy. Exposed are the worn-out, aggressive, and criminal gang and its diabolical scheme through which this secessionist group seeks to implicate the comrades in arms and companions of duty and struggle in bloody and destructive fratricide. They did this not in defense of the homeland, its sovereignty, security, and stability or to safeguard its democratic system and gains or the accomplishments of the September and October revolutions, which were watered with the blood of martyrs and sacrifices of strugglers and the people's sweat and hard work, but to maintain the seats of power, the parochial interests, and selfish and destructive whims.

Therefore, they are beating the drums of war and pushing the heroes of the Armed Forces to fight. They are doing so when the blood of the martyrs of our people and Armed Forces in Abyan, Shabwah, Dhamar, and 'Imran is not yet cold.

The valiant fighters of those military units, who are pushed by the renegade and separatist gang of the Socialist Party to instigate infighting to destroy the homeland and fragment its unity, will live up to their national responsibility and natural position. They will be in the right trench alongside unity to defend it and the homeland and to ward off the advocates of separation and wars. They will stand against that separatist gang which seeks to dismantle the homeland and takes money in payment for the souls of the innocent martyrs.

Out of a sense of responsibility and sacred duty, in appreciation of the sacrifices of the martyrs, and in order to spare the homeland the inferno of death and destruction, we call on those brave heroes to reject all orders issued by that oppressive gang that defies the homeland, constitutional legitimacy, and the people's genuine morals and values. That gang views the homeland only through its narrow interests. It deals with the people only through its adventurous ambitions and crazy desire to oppress the people through the tools of death and destruction of everything beautiful in this beloved homeland.

May God, the people, and the public opinion be witness that we have warned against the gravity of those reckless stupidities. We appeal to the rational ones in the command of the Socialist Party to responsibly assess the situation, resort to reason, heed the calls of peace, brotherhood, and love, to maintain the security and stability of the homeland and citizens, and not to be dragged into the fabricated lies which seek to trigger new bloodshed and tragedies for the public.

House Members Seeking 'Salvation Government'

JN0305145694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] The House of Representatives met today under its speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar.

At the outset of the meeting, the people's representatives reviewed and approved the minutes of the previous session.

The people's representatives then resumed their discussions, deliberations, and comments on the contents of the report of the House of Representatives' committee which is composed of the defense and security committee and a number of representatives, concerning the incidents which took place between the 3d and the 1st Armored Brigades in the 'Imran region.

The report was submitted for discussion by the representatives, who stressed that the House of Representatives should make a decision to stop the military repercussions, especially since these repercussions only claim the lives of the sons of the one homeland, leave widows, bereaved women, and orphans, and cause immense and grave material losses.

Several representatives also called on the House of Representatives to make a decision to stop media reactions, particularly the exchange of media vituperations carried on channels 1 and 2.

Some people's representatives suggested that the House of Representatives form a parliamentary salvation government from among the House of Representatives, which is elected by the people. This government should be entrusted with the implementation of the accord document in letter and spirit and should remain unbiased, so that the country will not be exposed to fragmentation and splits, and in order to safeguard Yemen, its achievements, unity, democracy, security, and stability.

In their discussion, the representatives stressed the need for the military commanders to respect the Islamic months during which fighting is forbidden [words indistinct] so that will mark the beginning of the road to entrenching security and stability, ending the military repercussions of the crisis, and bolstering national unity.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam Khalid Karman, minister of legal and House of Representatives affairs attended the meeting.

The House of Representatives will resume its meetings on 4 May, God willing.

'Official' Statement Criticizes YSP Practices

JN0305120594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 3 May 94

[Statement by unidentified "official source" in Sanaa on 2 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Every now and then and all of a sudden, the Yemeni

Socialist Party [YSP] political and media lies and deception machine produces false and deluding statements fraught with falsehoods, rancor, and obscenities. These statements are issued in the name of the YSP Political Bureau, its information center, or its illusionary Defense Ministry. The latest of these statements was disseminated yesterday by a Political Bureau spokesman through the official news media, which the YSP has turned into a deceptive stronghold to promote secessionist feelings and justify the use of aggressive means even if it drowns the national, Arab, and world public opinion with daily lies, fabrications, and falsehoods. All these actions denote a grudge against everything in our country; a relinquishment of all national and moral values and constitutional and legal principles; a blatant disavowal of the two accomplishments of unity and democracy; a deliberate vindictiveness with all means against the cause of responsible freedom; a growing hostility to and derision of the people's powers and the state institutions and agencies, particularly the House of Representatives, the Presidential Council, the Council of Ministers, and the military and security establishment. This is done for reasons known to the bloody and domineering secessionist elements in the YSP, who are still suffering from (?thirst) for absolute power, the dictatorship of a single party, and a deceitful grudge against all those who are assuming national responsibility in any position, even if they were from within the YSP leadership itself, unless they are the ones in power and unless all strategic joints of power are in their hand and not others whoever they may be and regardless of the people's will and the results of the real elections.

This fact was also confirmed by the treacherous acts against themselves throughout the past historical stages of which we remind the people without needing to explain in detail. These acts consecrated their personal interests and their pragmatic political creed because any position occupied by any of them in the party is above all positions of official responsibility within the state. They consider the party to be above all powers and that no voice should rise above that of the party, even if it is the voice of the people through the ballot boxes and the exercise of democracy by all bodies. This is the secret behind the Political Bureau members' strife over government portfolios and over their distribution in a regional spirit which [words indistinct] any of them.

They thus ignore the fact that the Yemeni homeland, since the dawn of Yemen's unity on 22 May, 1990, has ascended to a new historic era and new civilisation where power rests only with the people. It is the people who can decide the fate of the homeland, now that they, once and for all, buried the state of division, toppled the one-party dictatorship, banished from their life and land the venomous ideas, and committed themselves to the option of democracy and political party pluralism in a free society and a unitary democratic state whose constitutional institutions are the property of the people. This is because such a society is the result of a free will and responsible human action as it manifested itself in a lofty reality and civilized achievement on 27 April, 1993 when the Yemeni homeland launched a new march to pursue building its modern and developing life under a popular consensus. The new march has shown all the Yemeni people to be able to move with the times and to fulfill the requirements of sustained great struggle for political, economic, and cultural progress on the road and pride, equality, justice, dignity, virtue, and morality. From the beginning, these principles were opposed by the people who harbored hatred for unity, democracy, and the building of the institutions of the unitary state. They used all forms of circuitous and veiled sabotage and job distribution by a diabolical exploitation of freedom, tolerance, dialogue, and openness until their scheming against unity and democracy was exposed. All their plans of disinformation were exposed during the crisis—a crisis that was fabricated skillfully and that peaked in the rebellion against constitutional legitimacy including an infringement of military [word indistinct] with an eye to attaining two aims: Rebellion against the authorities of the unity state, or secession in order to return to the one-party dictatorship in the six governorates that knew bitterness and torment before 22 May, 1990. Toward that end, the elements that had control over the party blocked the enactment of uniform legislation and the unification of the state institutions. They also impeded the integration of the Armed Forces into one national institution and the disengagement of the officers, noncommissioned officers and ordinary ranks from loyalty to the party. These elements reacted to all national, sincere calls by condemning and disrupting all efforts aimed at unifying the Armed Forces through procrastination and outright rejection. We would ask these: How does your feigned [word indistinct] to an integration of the Armed Forces square with your demolition of these forces, with your party plunging the Armed Forces into bloody fighting and massing forces along old border lines in order to trigger warfare among the sons of the homeland? Where are do the military personnel rightly belong? Should they be part of advancing decent life and sharing in shouldering responsibility or in the graves scattered at the approaches of every village? They thus confirm that the party's rejection of all efforts to integrate the Armed Forces is aimed at affording it the opportunity to retain control over certain units as a means of advancing the aforementioned goals if political action does not succeed or if the rioting, assassinations, and sabotage, and other means fail—actions that are backed up by a brazenly hostile information policy that peaked toward the end of the provisional period.

This policy exacerbated and became more frenzied when those secessionist elements who hold sway over the media and official institutions in the economic and trade capital of Aden took charge last December. These elements allowed official media to become involved in the quagmire of the crisis as an advanced instrument for deception, for casting doubts about all national values and principles, and for fragmenting national unity. One of the ugly aspects of this policy manifested itself through the repeated announcement banning citizens from entering their economic and trade capital of Aden [words indistinct] the good militant Yemeni people in statements issued by the highest echelons in the party [words indistinct] in addition to harming all the national leaders and symbols. The party has become addicted to this condition even when it unabashedly deals with its own leaders. The same applies to fabricating accusations, concocting justifications, and issuing directives to the commands of the units which they control to have them fight their brothers as part of a dark and treacherous chain in the crisis. Unfortunately, such a thing recently took place in 'Imran among the comrades in arms and represented a momentous national loss for the people and the national military establishment. This fact denotes the intentions to continue the heated confrontation the secessionist clique holding sway within the YSP command had wanted, planned for, and is implementing as a means to attain the secessionist objectives and to implement the plan of fragmenting the Yemeni homeland as defined by the hatred of their masters and by their own designs. However, these schemes will utterly fail as did the previous ones thanks to the alertness of the people and all their sons in the Armed Forces and the Public Security and thanks to the wisdom of their political leadership and the confrontation of the unionist forces of what is now endangering the people's lives and harming their eternal unity.

All this targets the Yemeni people's free and united state. The people realize that those who harbor rancor against them and against the authorities will not hesitate to carry out any form of treacherous aggression. The Yemeni people strongly believe that when they established a new Yemen through freedom and democracy that enhances the march of the homeland of freedom, dignity, loftiness, and equality, there will be no individual in this homeland who will regret the era of oppression, darkness, repression and blood baths, whether those represented by the repressive Imamate era, [words indistinct] colonialism, or class and regional hatred.

It does not befit our lofty Yemeni people to go back to the eras of the bloodbaths which one of the YSP leaders referred to in a joking manner but which made him lose his life. [Words indistinct] clarifies that the YSP Political Bureau is made up of a group of people who destroy one another. If this is the case, what happens when they deal with the oppressed citizens? In spite of this, we strongly believe that no force or person in Yemen can trample democracy and constitutional legitimacy as it is now more sacred and loftier than [word indistinct] henchmen of the party dictatorship, and those who advocate the return to the totalitarian or secessionist rule.

We say to those that the accord document is being distorted by false philosophical statements and the entire people began to sympathize with the values and ambitions which the document contained [words indistinct] who each day create objectionable reasons to prevent progress through the state's constitutional bodies and the Political Forces Dialogue Committee toward implementing the accord document. We also say that those who are showing off their intelligence in [word indistinct] national awareness and are inventing analysis at the level of political speeches and words despite their spirit and clarity enjoy lying to all the people who listened to the speech which brother comrade 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, delivered at the 70 Square during the anniversary of democracy day on 27 April when their bad intentions made them imagine that his speech included a declaration of war on everyone in the same way that they understood the slogan of unity or death in the speech which he delivered in front of a large crowd of citizens in Ta'izz Governorate when he visited it last January.

As for being subservient to outside forces, events throughout history have confirmed this, whether it was to the despotic regime or those preceding or coming after it. It is as if the YSP cannot exist without being subservient to some master.

In conclusion, our people have a firm and unshakable faith that unity and democracy will triumph on the Yemeni soil because the great hopes to start a new life by overcoming all obstacles and challenges is a reality that cannot be canceled or denied. Moreover, understanding the crisis and all its bad aspects permitted a breakthrough so that prospects would open again for the marvels of work and generosity and for championing the will of goodness and construction. Therefore, we caution the good and unionist brothers in the YSP to quickly save the party from this destructive clique. Authority is not something pampered but is the right of the people who approve and develop it with their free democratic will. Unity is not a game that ends as soon as it starts. It is a sacred historical and cultural value and a historical accomplishment that champions the eternal presence of people and their land as a history and immortal fate in the past and present.

Moreover, the pillars of the Yemeni homeland are not as soft as those rash secessionists imagine. The innocent members of the YSP have had enough bitterness in their lives and hearts because of the conspiracy, and they should be saved from the humiliation resulting from the stands of the domineering secessionist elements toward the people's greatest and most serious issues, foremost of which is the issue of unity and democracy. Our Yemeni people are well aware of those secessionists and are waiting for them.'

[Dated] 2 May 1994

PFC Secretary General Departs for Rabat Seminar

JN0305161894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] Baghdad, 3 May (INA)—Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, secretary general of the Popular Forces Conference [PFC], has left Baghdad for Rabat to participate in the meetings of the follow-up and coordination committee of the democratic and revolutionary dialogue forum, and the seminar on the phenomenon of terrorism and violence in the Arab world, due to begin there tomorrow, [4 May].

Sa'd Qasim Hammudi noted that the seminar will discuss the new world situation, the current Arab situation, human rights, and the phenomenon of terrorism and violence throughout history.

He said that he has prepared a comprehensive study on terrorism and the hegemony the United States is exercising on Iraq, the Arab nation, and the world peoples on the pretext of the new world order. The study also deals with the comprehensive embargo that has been imposed on the Iraqi people for more than 44 months.

He added that he will hold meetings and contacts with the Arab delegations participating in the seminar and the coordination committee meetings, as well as with Moroccan popular organizations and parties to explain to them the latest developments in Iraq's relationship with the UN Security Council, and the importance of mobilizing all pan-Arab resources to support Iraq and lift the unjust embargo clamped on its lofty people.

Prime Minister Inaugurates First Phase of Saddam Oilfield

JN0305190994 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 28 Apr 94 p 4

[Article by AL-THAWRAH correspondent Sa'ib 'Abd-al-Muhsin]

[Excerpt] Marking the blessed birthday of the builder of great Iraq's glory, leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve and protect him, Prime Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayr inaugurated the first phase of the project to develop the Saddam oilfield which was implemented by the technical teams of the Northern Oil Company in Salah al-Din Governorate. It is considered the biggest gas field in the country.

The ceremony began with a recital from the Holy Koran and a prayer for the repose of the souls of the righteous martyrs. Oil Minister Dr. Safa' Hadi Jawad then delivered a speech in which he said: I am pleased to be given the opportunity to inaugurate this project amid the national celebrations of immortal April and the birthday of leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him. This is considered one of the important projects to be carried out by the technical and engineering teams of the Northern Oil Company to develop Iraqi oilfields. The project involves the development of Saddam oilfield, which the responsible foreign contracting company left incomplete in August 1990.

Dr. Talal 'Ashur Kan'an, director general of the Northern Oil Company, also delivered a speech in which he said: The project, whose first phase we are inaugurating today, is an integral oil complex in this area which is far from the company's central installations. The complex consists of units for oil separation, soft oil treatment, desalination, dehydration, treatment, and injection of polluted water, and gas assembly and compression. The complex also includes two pipelines: an oil pipeline which is linked to the second pumping station on the second Iraqi-Turkish pipeline with special adjustments to link it to the northern refineries, and a gas pipeline which is linked to the northern gas complex. The designing of this integral technical complex for the production of crude oil and gas takes into consideration the possibility of expanding oil operations in this area by including the production activities of Hamrin oilfield in the future. [passage omitted]

Columnist Lauds 'Intimate Link' Between Saddam, People

JN0305192094 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 28 Apr 94 p 7

["Sidelines" column by Sabri Hammadi: "Intimate, Solid, and Strong Relationship"]

[Text] The relationship we mean is the intimate link between the great Iraqi people and their struggler leader Saddam Husayn. This relationship, which began 35 years ago, has continued to acquire substance and solidity in the cauldron of the battles of struggle and reconstruction through all the trials until it has, today, become a rare fabric, which no enemy can penetrate or undermine.

Needless to say, this special relationship has not come out of vacuum, nor has it been formed in one battle or occasion. It is also, certainly, not a lop-sided relationship such as some leaders and rulers have with their peoples, but is an intimate, solid, and strong human relationship based on the strong pillars of affection, confidence, respect and the truest meanings of affiliation and loyalty.

The first time Iraqis heard the name Saddam Husayn was in 1959 when people spoke admirably and appreciatively of the great deed by the loyal and courageous Ba'thist youth who, along with fellow Ba'thists, liquidated the dictator 'Abd-al-Karim Qasim on al-Rashid Street. And, in 1964 Ba'thist strugglers began to understand and feel through practical experience that the leadership of their young comrade Saddam Husayn was of a historic, invasive, and daring type that played a basic role in rebuilding the party and unifying it on the organizational and intellectual levels, and that it was pursuing the party's national and pan-Arab struggle despite all the challenges and hardships placed in its way by the renegades.

Following the glorious 17-30 July Revolution, Iraqis understood that leader President Saddam Husayn, who devoted his life to the service of the Iraqi people and the Arab nation and the achievement of the historical national and pan-Arab aims and ambitions, was in fact the engineer, planner, and brain behind all the great achievements and victories the revolution had achieved since 1968.

It must be said here that the evil enemies have also realized at an early stage that one of the sources of Iraq's strength is this intimate relationship and rare unity between the people and their leader. So, it is natural for the evil forces to target the symbol and leader of Iraq and his intimate relationship with the people by trying hard to drive a wedge between them.

At a time when the enemies are wagering and concentrating their efforts on penetrating and undermining this unique relationship, the glorious Iraqis, who are certain that Saddam Husayn is the guarantor of their continuous victories, the captain who will sail their ship to safety, and the leader of their march on the path of progress and advancement, got even more attached to his historic leadership, expressed their determination to adhere more and more to the symbol of their struggle and dignity, and affirmed their resolve to march forward under his flag; the flag of Allahu Akbar.

It was also clear during the immortal Mother of Battles that the U.S.-NATO coalition was wagering on splitting this humane relationship between the people and their leader. The best proof of this wager is the U.S. Administration's insistence on continuing the unfair blockade on the Iraqi people without any legal or political justifications as indicated by the openly hostile U.S. acts and statements. But what has happened and is happening now clearly shows that the evil forces are discovering with time that their wager has failed miserably and that they have failed and will continue to fail to undermine this relationship which they have been targeting for four years to no avail. In fact, the evil forces are now certain that this relationship that they are trying to undermine is getting stronger and has become one impenetrable unit despite all their conspiratorial plans, political and economic pressure, and cheap propaganda campaigns.

Indeed, this noble relationship has resisted all the mean imperialist-Zionist wagers and plans. The evil and aggressive forces are convinced that they cannot penetrate it and that what they have done and are doing to this end is of no avail and will absolutely not change the loyal Iraqi people's stand toward their historic leader and righteous son, Saddam Husayn. Therefore, the evil forces have no choice but to give up their mean endeavor and to seriously reconsider all their hostile policies toward steadfast Iraq, which is what they are doing now.

Paper Questions Loss of Incoming International Mail

JN0305184494 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 26 Apr 94 p 12

["Above the Red Line" column by "citizen Mustafa Fahmi al-Tamimi from al-Khalis, Diyala Governorate:" "Where Do the Letters and Parcels of Iraq's Friends Go?"]

[Text] Many sincere friends from the Arab homeland and other world nations have denounced the unjust blockade which has been imposed on our struggling country in all fields, including the cultural field. No doubt, they are right in their denunciation. But if these sincere ones have denounced the position of the Arabs who are colluding with imperialism and Zionism, we are astonished about the position that has been taken by others in imposing a different kind of blockade on us. Do not be amazed, for here are the details.

We are members of the al-Khalis Youth Committee of the Ambassador League for International Pen Pals, which belongs to the General Federation of Iraqi Youths, Diyala branch. Our league has succeeded in making a name for itself, pen pals from different countries. It has also contributed toward breaking through the cultural blockade that has been imposed on us, since we have received many letters of solidarity with Iraq, the Iraqis, and their beloved leader Saddam Husayn, may God preserve and protect him. The letters expressed sentiments of support for the just Iraqi stand, thanks to our efforts in explaining our position and answering our friends' many questions, which revealed the extent of the false Western propaganda to which they have been exposed.

Unfortunately, however, most of the valuable parcels coming from our friends do not reach us, although they have been sent by registered mail. At first, we thought that only our league faced this problem, then we discovered to our great amazement that many other pen pals face the same problem in the country.

So, I personally checked with the central post office in Baghdad on 12 April. We asked them about the parcels. Their answer was: Make sure about registered mail numbers. Yet, most of our friends' letters carried registered mail numbers and they also are surprised that the parcels did not arrive!! The answer was vague. Is it right for these parcels to get lost so easily, and who is responsible for this?

Peres: 'Formal' Transfer of Power Within 2 to 3 Weeks

TA0405083394 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 0742 GMT 4 May 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari in Cairo on 4 May—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Ya'ari] Beyond the signing of the agreement, when do you expect the actual transfer of power to take place?

[Peres] We are dealing here with a number of doors which have to be opened. Some already have been opened, and Palestinians will enter through them. I believe the formal transfer will occur within two to three weeks.

[Ya'ari] How do you assess the impact of this agreement on Israel's efforts to negotiate with Syria? Will it spur al-Asad on? Will it alienate him and convince him to wait?

[Peres] I will tell you something far-reaching: Without an agreement with the Palestinians, we would be unable to reach an agreement with al-Asad, because without that agreement, al-Asad would view himself as the sponsor of the Palestinian issue. The fact that the Palestinians are engaged in a process separately from the Syrians permits us to negotiate and reach an accord with each of them.

[Ya'ari] With your permission, I would like to address the most recent discussion you had last night with Yasir 'Arafat and the cosponsors. Can you tell us what happened with the remaining unresolved clauses of the agreement?

[Peres] As always happens in negotiations, they were concluded with a compromise, which is made up of firm pledges on the one hand and promises and expectations for the future on the other. All in all, I think the compromise is adequate from Israel's viewpoint, and from the Palestinian viewpoint as well.

We must not forget that this is a unique process: The negotiations are not over; a process has been launched, and it will continue. For instance, we never said the size of Jericho was final, as the negotiations on the size of Jericho will have to be resumed within a few months. Therefore, points on which agreement was achieved should be viewed in a time dimension, and not only a territorial dimension. I think this makes compromise easier for both sides. In any event, it was vital to conclude the agreement. [passage omitted]

Release of 2,500 Palestinian Prisoners Begins

TA0405113594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] The release of the 2,500 prisoners slated to return home by Sunday, as stipulated in the Cairo agreement, began at midday today. Our correspondents Nisim Qeynan and Moti Amir report that seven buses carrying freed prisoners left the Qezi'ot detention facility and headed for the Gaza Strip, but were stopped at the Nahal 'Oz checkpoint. Meanwhile, a large crowd of relatives was waiting for the returning prisoners on the other side of the checkpoint. The hold-up is believed to have been caused by the delay in the Cairo ceremony. The buses with released prisoners were eventually permitted to drive on.

It has been learned that all the released prisoners are affiliated with Fatah, with the exception of two Islamic Jihad and two Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members who signed a statement of support for the Declaration of Principles, and that about 1,000 prisoners will be released by the end of the day.

In Gaza city and in refugee camps in the Strip, the returning locals are being received with festive processions. In Jericho, local inhabitants decorated the police station with flowers and palm branches and hoisted a PLO flag. The city has been declared a closed military zone.

Beilin on Peace Accord With PLO, Golan, Other Issues

BR0305131894 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 3 May 94 p 17

[Interview with Foreign Ministry spokesman Yossi Beilin by Alberto Stabile in Jerusalem; date not given: "Israel and PLO Sign"—first three paragraphs are LA REPUBBLICA introduction]

[Excerpts] Jerusalem—The historic agreement to introduce Palestinian autonomy in Gaza and Jericho will at last be signed in Cairo tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Now that an Israeli-PLO agreement can be taken for granted, U.S. Secretary of State Christopher has been concerned over the past two days with the negotiations between Israel and Syria—perhaps the most difficult in the peace process—in an attempt to shift the two antagonists, Rabin and al-'Asad, from the stances to which they have clung stubbornly for months. And he seems to have succeeded. Irrespective of the official comments and the needling, negotiations between Israel and Syria have entered a new, "more substantive," phase, as the secretary of state put it. Sunday [1 May] Christopher conveyed to Damascus the proposal for an agreement put forward by Rabin—a withdrawal from Golan in three stages, the immediate return of three of the five Druze villages, security measures, and the immediate opening of diplomatic missions. The official response was a refusal. "Syria is opposed to an Israeli withdrawal in stages," al-'Asad's spokesman said. And Foreign Minister al-Shar' went further by describing the Israeli offer as "stupid." In fact al-'Asad entrusted Christopher with his counterproposal, which includes a number of "substantive" points. The "al-'Asad Plan" has been received with "great interest" by Foreign Minister Peres, according to whom, "the efforts to achieve peace between Israel and Syria are in earnest."

"I think that our proposals mark the start of a new phase in negotiations with Syria," Yossi Beilin said in his office at the Foreign Ministry. Of Israel's young politicians, he has had, and still has, the most important role in the complex negotiations of the peace process, partly thanks to his proximity to Shim'on Peres. [passage omitted]

[Stabile] Mr. Beilin, tomorrow the agreement on Gaza and Jericho will be signed. What will happen after that?

[Beilin] We have several different alternatives. We hoped that the Palestinians would complete their election process in July so as to establish their Council and immediately start discussing the extension of autonomy to the whole of the West Bank. But if, as it seems, there are no elections in July, and more time is needed, then we will negotiate the transfer of powers only in some fields—health, education, welfare, and so forth. Be that as it may, from Wednesday [4 May] we will start counting the five years of the transition phase. And we will be able to start right away to negotiate a permanent solution, without necessarily awaiting the end of the second year.

[Stabile] Do you not think that you are moving rather too fast? The Palestinians do not seem to be at all ready to take over power in Gaza and Jericho.

[Beilin] I have read some newspaper accounts in this regard. I suggest that we should not be paternalistic and tell them what they should do. They are at a delicate stage in their history. They have to create all their institutions from scratch. We must understand them and be patient, as long as our security and our interests are not placed in jeopardy. I hope that the PLO and the Palestinian police are capable of preventing terrorism. This will be the real test of the agreement on Gaza and Jericho.

[Stabile] What do you expect?

[Beilin] If terrorism becomes less intense, it will be the agreement's greatest success.

[Stabile] Otherwise?

[Beilin] Otherwise we will be forced to reconsider everything.

[Stabile] Chief of Staff Barak has said that Hamas and the PLO have the same final objectives. Do you think that it is possible that Israel could some day conduct a dialogue with Hamas?

[Beilin] We must not exclude anyone a priori. If they are prepared to recognize Israel, of course we will not exclude them merely because they call themselves "Hamas." I would point out that for many years the PLO was our worst enemy. But once they changed their minds and put an end to terrorism, we were willing to talk. I am sure that their dreams are the same. But I am interested not in what they dream at night, but in what they do during the day. And as things stand, there are major differences between Hamas and the PLO.

[Stabile] How would you regard an involvement by Hamas in the Palestinian elections?

[Beilin] If Hamas renounces terrorism and takes part in the elections, we will not oppose it. On the contrary, we would regard it as a positive sign, because it would mean that they have accepted the peace process. But unless it abandons terrorism, we cannot tolerate Hamas' involvement in the election campaign.

[Stabile] Are you not afraid of the settlers' reaction to the agreement?

[Beilin] I do not think that this opposition will jeopardize the country's stability. Few political leaders now could argue that we should remain in Gaza. On the contrary, there are thousands of Israeli mothers who will be happy that we are leaving.

[Stabile] Will the opposition be sharper in the case of Golan?

[Beilin] Golan is important to security. And I think that when there are negotiations and a draft agreement with Syria, we must make the relinquishment of Golan the subject of a referendum. Of course, we could lose it, but that is a risk we must face.

[Stabile] But are you not afraid that Syria's President al-'Asad could regard a referendum on Golan as an excuse for avoiding a withdrawal?

[Beilin] I think that al-'Asad can understand that the decision to make a future agreement the subject of a referendum is the most important indication of the seriousness of our intentions. Also I can assure you that such an agreement would by no means have an easier life in the Knesset, since we have only a small majority.

[Stabile] Meanwhile al-'Asad has rejected your plan. Will you change anything in it?

[Beilin] I do not think that Syria will reject all our proposals. If they did so, they would be proving to the world that they are not in earnest in their desire for peace. We have never said: These are our ideas; take them or leave them. That is merely a proposal, but it is the most serious proposal that Israel has ever made. And if there are differences to be bridged, we are prepared to discuss them.

Further on Beilin Comments

TA0305151394 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1300 GMT 3 May 94

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin by Mikha Friedman; place not given—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Friedman] Mr. Beilin, when the process began, it was said that Gaza and Jericho First is an experiment and that if it does not succeed, the situation is reversible and it is possible to return to the status quo ante. Is it correct to say that over the past few weeks, people have stopped talking about the reversible nature of the agreement?

[Beilin] By its very nature, this is an interim and reversible agreement. Naturally, we all hope it will not be necessary to reverse it, because it is clear that even if this is theoretically possible, it will be extremely difficult in practice to come out and say now—after all that has transpired—that we are revoking the agreement. I believe it will be possible to do so only if extremely grave, intolerable incidents occur. As is the case with any other agreement, our working assumption is that both sides will abide by the agreement. It is obvious—even if not always explicitly written down—that if one side violates the agreement, the other side is no longer bound by it. Any agreement of this nature is reversible, but the sides always hope it will not be necessary to revoke it.

[Friedman] What if the worst-case scenario happens? Will the

wd?nd we have enough leverage to do what we consider necessary.

[Friedman] What is the difference between the situation that will unfold in the territories as of noon tomorrow and between future Palestinian sovereignty over all the territories?

[Beilin] The difference is in terms of foreign affairs and defense. Just like most autonomies in the world, in this case, too, there is independence, excluding the two key elements of foreign affairs and defense. This is more or less what we gave the Palestinians, which is the nature of autonomy.

[Friedman] Where will it lead eventually? Do you see an inevitable historical process toward a Palestinian state?

[Beilin] I do not believe in historical determinism. I completely reject the thesis that there is an inevitable process leading to a state. A Palestinian state will be established only if the Palestinians demand this and there is an Israeli Government ready to accept this demand. So far, no Israeli Government has accepted such a demand. If you want my opinion, I believe that eventually a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation will be established, because most of the sides involved prefer this solution or are at least ready to accept such a solution. This will be the common denominator among all the sides.

[Friedman] Let me phrase the question differently: Would you agree to be a member of a government that is ready to grant the Palestinians an independent state?

[Beilin] Look, I must tell you that I do not consider a Palestinian state—which my party and the government of which it is the main constituent opposes—to be a national disaster. At the same time, I have always preferred the confederation model. If I had to choose between the two options, I would always prefer the confederation solution.

Opposition Factions Submit Draft Bill To Disband Knesset

TA0405075894 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] The leaders of the opposition have submitted a draft bill to disband the Knesset and to hold new elections. The argument attached to the motion states that the prime minister has been grossly violating specific commitments he made on the eve of the elections to the 13th Knesset. According to the opposition, a minority government, whose performance has been gradually deteriorating, cannot possibly stay in office and endanger Israel's security. Consequently, the leaders of the opposition argue, the 13th Knesset must disband so that the people may have their say in new elections and decide who deserves to lead it.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 4 May adds: "The Likud says that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has once again proven his inability to protect Israel's basic interests. The Likud's spokesman says that the man who until a few months ago promised a Palestinian tiny spot in the town of Jericho has given away more than 60 square km of Palestinian sovereignty in the Jordan Valley on a silver platter, and he is not yet done."]

Clinton's Foreign Policy Assailed, Termed 'Photo-Op'

TA0305114494 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 May 94 p B1

[Commentary by Washington correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar: "Photo Opportunism"]

[Excerpts] The Americans would have it coming to them if Yitzhaq Rabin and Yasir 'Arafat called off the signing ceremony at the last minute and sent Warren Christopher home without awarding him a free photo-op posing with success (see the handshake at the White House lawn after the Oslo agreement). He never lifted even the tip of his finger to merit a photograph of the agreement between Israel and the Palestinians, as would befit a statesman representing the last world superpower. From the moment it entered the White House, the Clinton administration kept on the sidelines of the political picture it inherited. Secretaries of state have been embarking on shuttle trips to the Middle East to consolidate political compromise (see Christopher's previous tours).

If Christopher returns from the Middle East without any achievement on the Syrian-Israeli track this time as well, the Clinton Administration will go down in the history of international relations as the administration which coined the term photo opportunism. On 13 September it earned a photo opportunity thanks to its hosting services. Seven months later it should be pointed out that the signing ceremony on the implementation of the September agreement had also been scheduled to be held in Washington. The day after the Hebron massacre Clinton invited all the sides to engage in a political drive under his auspices. Israel and the PLO chose Cairo and Paris instead and formulated yet another agreement without any U.S. assistance.

In his new book, "Diplomacy," Henry Kissinger offers an interesting explanation of this phenomenon. "The United States is the only world superpower that can intervene anywhere in the world," the former secretary of state writes. "On the other hand, its power has become more diffuse and there are fewer cases in which military power is relevant. The absence of substantive ideological or strategic threats has enabled nations to focus their foreign policies on issues affecting their national interests." Kissinger predicts that the world order will increasingly be based on reconciliation and a balance between conflicting national interests.

On the face of it, this explanation would seem to perfectly fit the new order emerging between the Israelis and the Palestinians, which was amply more affected by the lessons of the intifadah and the Gulf war than by both the Bush and Clinton administrations. [passage omitted]

Clinton spends 15 minutes a day on an intelligence briefing, another 30 minutes on a morning session with his national security advisers, and the rest of the day he devotes to the question of health reform, welfare, and fighting crime. He answers nagging questions about Bosnia, Haiti, North Korea, and the massacre in Rwanda with firm pronouncements which become obsolete overnight. A State Department official told me that ethnic interest groups—such as the Irish, the Turks, and Blacks (see Haiti)—have become more prominent because of the administration's feebleness.

Last month the President was photographed with the Muslim and Croatian leaders who came to Washington to sign an agreement which the Serbians in Gorazde immediately turned into a mockery. Last week the administration tried to hitch a ride on the democracy celebrations in South Africa. It announced a special gift to the new government in Pretoria: the annual aid would be increased from $100 to $150 million—less that the aid Israel gets in five days.

The peace process in the Middle East has so far provided Clinton with a podium free of charge, owing to the fact that it does not entail sending military troops there to enforce peace. The economic aid to the region has long become a matter of routine with the U.S. Congress and public opinion. As far as he is concerned, the most important point is that Israel did not need U.S. pressure to reach a compromise with the Palestinians. Consequently, the Jewish lobby and donors had nothing to carp about.

The transparent photo opportunism will reach its climax tomorrow with Christopher's presence on the podium in Cairo. From now on, the Americans will have to work for this honor. As Kissinger writes, the Syrians consider the Americans a key element to balance their and Israel's interests. Clinton will have to soften Congress' attitude toward the Syrian regime and attain its approval for sending U.S. troops to the Golan, and perhaps even to muster international consent to make Israel a member of the atomic club.

Clinton has presumably learned from the Geneva summit that smiling to the camera is not enough when al-Asad and Rabin are in the picture. He may very well be forced to take the plunge into the icy waters of a Palestinian state and the future of Jerusalem during his first (and last?) term in office .

Delegation To Attend PLO-Israel Accord Signing Ceremony

JN0305111994 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] During a session led by Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali this morning, the cabinet decided to form a delegation, led by Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, along with Nayif Sa'ud al-Qadi, the Jordanian ambassador to Egypt, to represent Jordan at the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement ceremony which will take place in Cairo tomorrow, Wednesday.

During its session, the cabinet reviewed the minutes of meetings of the committee in charge of preparing for the meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee. The higher committee began meetings at the Ministry of Planning yesterday to discuss fields of cooperation between the two fraternal countries in preparation for discussing and approving these minutes during its meetings on Thursday under Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi.

Al-Majali on Attendance at Cairo Signing

JN0305202294 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 3 May 94

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[Text] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali said Jordan was not boycotting Middle East multilateral peace [talks] but rather lowering the level of participation in the talks. Dr. Al-Majali said the decision will continue until the situation on the ground changes with regards to Western interception of al-'Aqabah-bound vessels.

The prime minister told The News at Ten that Jordan would attend tomorrow's signing of the PLO-Israeli agreement, adding that the agreement was not coordinated with Jordan.

[Begin recording] [Al-Majali] We have told our foreign minister [title as heard] and our ambassador in Egypt to attend the meeting, which is going to take place tomorrow.

[Correspondent al-Sha'ir] Did the PLO coordinate with Jordan with respect to the signing tomorrow?

[Al-Majali] Not really. We did not receive anything from the PLO side, but we received from Egypt an invitation to attend, and we hope that it will be a very successful one.

[Al-Sha'ir] Jordan is going to send an observer to Doha for the multilateral talks. Does this mean that Jordan still is going to avoid the peace process?

[Al-Majali] Don't use the word observer. He is not an observer; he is a member of the delegation, but he is a single person to attend, and he will be attending, and in fact he has been there for a few days to talk even preliminarily before the general meeting. But he is not going to participate in the same way like in the old days because, still, we are not sure whether the issue of al-'Aqabah has been settled completely. Still, I think, it is in its final stages, so everything will be okay after that.

[Al-Sha'ir] So, until a decision is taken, Jordan...

[Al-Majali, interrupting] We are just joining. We are attending. We are not boycotting. We're just lowering the level of the participation itself, which is because of the economic reasons. Multilateral is for economic reasons. We cannot be punished economically and in the same time attend something in the economic side and in the regional side. [end recording]

Dr. Al-Majali was speaking after a meeting with Egyptian journalists visiting Amman to cover Thursday's meetings of the Higher Jordanian-Egyptian Committee. The prime minister expressed hope that the meeting will be a basic tool to reestablish Arab solidarity and upgrade coordination between Cairo and Amman. Dr. al-Majali called for a grace period in discussing Arab differences, and allowing time to heal existing rifts.

He told the Egyptian journalists that while Jordan recognizes the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, it does not want any agreement by the PLO to have negative consequences on Jordan.

'Sources' Review Attendance at Signing

JN0405104794 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 May 94, pp 1, 10

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—Jordan on Tuesday [3 May] dispatched its State Minister for Foreign Affairs Talal al-Hasan to Cairo to attend Wednesday's signing of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israel self-rule agreement after visible hesitation and an earlier decision to boycott the ceremony.

Informed sources said Prime Minister 'Abd al-Salam al-Majali on Tuesday gained support for his argument to send a top-level Jordanian representative to the signing ceremony despite Jordanian dismay at the lack of PLO coordination with Jordan and the continuing naval blockade on al-'Aqabah.

The decision, which seemed to have been a compromise between sending a more senior-level delegation or dispatching no representative at all, was taken by the Cabinet at its regular meeting yesterday.

"President Husni Mubarak had personally invited His Majesty to attend the ceremony and this invitation was declined," said a well-informed source. Another source said that the King had excused himself by pointing to the 40 days of mourning at the Royal Court over the passing of Her Majesty Queen Zayn al-Sharaf.

Egypt later extended another invitation to the prime minister and the minister of state for foreign affairs to attend the cermeonies, but this suggestion was also turned down, with Jordan opting finally for sending the minister of state.

A senior Jordanian official told the JORDAN TIMES on Monday that Jordan had sent a letter regetting that it would not be able to attend the ceremony. A PLO official also confirmed that the organisation had received a negative reply from the Kingdom.

It was not immediately clear what caused the change of heart between late Monday and Tuesday. According to well-informed sources, Dr. al-Majali himself was arguing for a Jordanian representation at the ceremony, especially that 43 other foreign ministers from around the world were scheduled to attend.

Jordan had intended to use the occasion to register its growing displeasure at the low level of coordination by the PLO with Jordan over decisions that ultimately affect vital Jordanian interests.

The Kingdom also believed that attending the meeting would contradict a vow to suspend its active role in Middle East peace negotiations until it finalised an agreement with Washington whereby inspections of vessels heading to al-'Aqabah would be conducted by Lloyds Register of London.

Dr. al-Majali, according to the sources, had argued that with 43 foreign ministers attending the signing ceremony "Jordan's presence can be treated like that of any of these countries."

According to the sources, the premier also believed that Jordan's absence would cause "more embarassement for the Kingdom than would serve its purpose."

Other sources said that at least one other factor figured in the decision of the government to attend the Cairo meeting. After several delays the Joint Egyptian-Jordanian Higher Committee was scheduled to begin talks here Thursday headed by Egyptian Prime Minister Atif Sidqi and Dr. al-Majali.

"If only to show good will to this scheduled meeting, Jordan probably could not have boycotted a ceremony hosted by Egypt," a well-informed analyst said.

PLO sources also said Tuesday that the organisation had insisted on Jordanian attendance till the time the decision was taken by the Cabinet and that the PLO would have liked Jordan's prime minister to be present at the signing ceremony.

Government Reacts to Signing of PLO-Israel Agreement

JN0405120794 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Replying to a question by the Jordanian News Agency on the signing ceremony of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement in Cairo today, Dr. Sa'id al-Tall, deputy prime minister and acting information minister, said the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan recognizes the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people in accordance with the 1974 Rabat Arab summit conference resolution, which was approved unanimously and upon a Palestinian request. Hence, he added, the kingdom considers the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement today an independent Palestinian affair. We support the Palestinian people's rights and stand by their side with all our abilities. In the meantime, he said, Jordan hopes this agreement will be a basic step in the fraternal Palestinian people's struggle for the establishment of their independent state on the land of Palestine.

He added that the special, distinctive Jordanian-Palestinian relations in the past, present, and future presume, among other things, the continuation of the highest possible level of cooperation and coordination for the good of the two fraternal peoples and their joint national and pan-Arab interest.

Self-Rule Agreement Termed 'Milestone'

JN0405082094 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 May 94 pp 1, 27

[Editorial: "Step Down Long Road"]

[Text] Barring further obstacles Yitzhaq Rabin's government may create at the eleventh hour to block the agreement launching Palestinian self-rule, Cairo will today witness the signing ceremony and the agreement will go into effect immediately.

If we are skeptical about the signing, it is because as the date approaches, Israel has been trying to blackmail the Palestinian side into making further concessions. Israel may even seek to renege on certain points it agreed to with the Palestinians in the tough negotiations they have conducted over the past weeks.

In any case, assuming things proceed as planned, today should be marked as a milestone in the history of the Palestinian people, who have paid a heavy price to unblock the road to their legitimate national rights and win their freedom and independence.

Granted, this agreement falls short of the Palestinian people's aspirations and inalienable rights. Notwithstanding its inadequacies, the agreement could in the long run prove a major step down a long road to freeing the land and getting rid of occupation and rebuilding the Palestinian entity.

Hopefully, no last-minute obstacles raised by Israel will block the signing ceremony. It is also hoped the agreement will constitute a fresh stimulus for the Palestinian people's struggle. The brother Palestinians owe it to themselves to make the most of this significant accomplishment and go on to score further successes so that, eventually, they attain their freedom, advancement, and independence.

Paper Supports Prime Minister's View of Arab Differences

JN0405123194 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 4 May 94 pp 1, 25

[Editorial: "Coming to Grips With Challenges"]

[Text] The prime minister's remarks to Egyptian media representatives, in Amman to report on the proceedings of the Higher Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Committee, is significant in more ways than one. The prime minister's statements addressed his Egyptian counterpart's visit to Jordan and the higher committee's work. Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali also noted the high regard in which Jordan holds its political relations and coordination with Egypt at this sensitive stage.

Jordan has consistently exerted itself on behalf of revitalizing Arab solidarity and common Arab action. Hence the prime minister's observation that while the Arab world is going through a delicate stage and a rapid succession of developments, certain Arab parties handle their differences as if they do not appreciate the gravity of the situation. There has been an absence of real attempts to smooth over Arab differences so as to take account of global changes from a pan-Arab outlook and tackle the challenges facing the Arab nation.

Unless they get their act together and iron out their differences, the Arabs will be made to stomach a regional order under the new world order that will shape their lives for many years to come. In order for the Arabs to avert such a likelihood, the prime minister suggested that they approach their differences as if they were debts to be rescheduled over, say, a 10-year period with a three-year grace period, during which time the parties pause to think over these differences.

Jordan appreciates the critical circumstances the Arab world is experiencing and is equally aware of the political and economic implications of these circumstances. Jordan knows full well that if the Arabs intend to advance their interests and ward off dangers, they have to close ranks and revert to effective action based on new and clear rules that respond to ongoing and rapid changes sweeping the world. To quote the prime minister, there is no place for spectators under the new world order, in which the Arabs have to play an active and effectual role.

Al-Majali on Egyptian Ties, al-'Aqabah

JN0305163994 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali met with Egyptian media representatives and delegates at the Prime Ministry today. These media men came to Jordan in order to report on the meetings of the Higher Jordanian-Egyptian Committee. During the meeting, the prime minister discussed bilateral relations and the regional situation. Here are more details:

Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali welcomed the resumption of the meetings of the Higher Jordanian-Egyptian Committee. He said: We hope these meetings will be a foundation stone for reinstating work among the Arab states in the required way. He also pointed out the importance of coordination between the two fraternal countries, particularly in this phase.

The prime minister explained that the agenda of the meetings includes many issues and topics, led by consolidating political relations between the sisterly countries and discussing a number of economic issues, such as exports, protocols, dealing with trucks, transportation, the Arab bridge, and electric power connection.

Dr. al-Majali said that the Arab world is now passing through a crucial stage, that facts and events are accelerating rapidly, and that the Arab world is still unaware of the serious phase we are passing through because it is still dealing, to a limited degree, with the reasons for differences, but no genuine attempts have been made to remove these differences and deal with the new facts.

Al-Majali added that the real features of the new world order have not yet become clear, except for the fact that the United States is the country that is currently dominating this order. He noted that the character of the regional order that could prevail in our region has not yet become clear. The prime minister asserted that if the Arabs do not act before it is too late, do not reach understanding, and do not achieve accord, a regional order could be arranged and imposed on them. Such an order could affect the Arabs for a long period of time.

Al-Majali asserted that there is no room for spectators in such an order, and that we, the Arabs, should play an effective and influential role in this order.

The prime minister reviewed the siege imposed on the port of al-'Aqabah and the efforts that the Jordanian king and government have made to resolve this issue, as a result of which Jordan has sustained great financial losses that reflected negatively on the performance of the Jordanian economy. He said that since the meeting held between His Majesty King Husayn and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in London last week no ship bound for al-'Aqabah has been intercepted. He added that the Jordanian proposal that the international company Lloyds supervise the dealings with cargo bound for the port of al-'Aqabah was approved. Al-Majali explained that some matters pertaining to this issue are still being studied.

Presence of UN Observers at al-'Aqabah Rejected

JN0305140794 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 3 May 94 p 7

[Text] Amman—A responsible Jordanian source has stressed Jordan's rejection of any agreement with Lloyds Register that encroaches on Jordan's sovereignty over its territory and its right to inspect incoming ships.

In statements to the press, the source said that Jordan insists on not giving Lloyds Register the right to inspect ships and that this international company's duty is to carry out inspections at the docks in the Port of al-'Aqabah and to allow or disallow any imported goods into the country.

The source noted that the cost of the inspections, which could reach $3 million dollars per year, is not Jordan's responsibility. This is because the inspection procedure was not imposed by Jordan but by the United Nations, which, therefore, should cover the inspection costs. However, an agreement on this issue could be reached later.

The source said that Jordan rejects the stationing of international forces to supervise the work of the international company and also rejects the presence of international observers at the Port of al-'Aqabah. Some international sources have called for this in order to secure direct international supervision over the inspection operations. According to them, these operations are being conducted by a civil rather than an international authority and an international presence alongside this civilian authority is required.

Diplomatic sources in Amman said that inspections at the Port of al-'Aqabah's docks will create many problems for Jordan. These sources believe that inspections at the Port of al-'Aqabah will not take place because the United Nations cannot totally delegate UN Security Council duties to an international company.

These sources noted that, during the press conference with His Majesty King Husayn after agreeing to delegate Lloyds Register to carry out the inspections, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher reiterated twice that through this agreement, the embargo on Iraq will become more effective.

The sources added that the U.S. secretary meant that the inspections that were carried out at sea, sometimes in a random and inaccurate manner, will now be carried out at the docks of the port and cover each and every piece of imported goods under UN supervision, which would require the stationing of an international force at the port or at least one international officer or observer with permanent residency in Jordanian territory.

The sources said that the Jordanian-U.S. agreement does not seem practical and that it will reignite Jordanian-U.S. differences once implementation begins.

No Ship Interceptions Since Husayn-Christopher Talks

JN0405111494 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 May 94, pp 1, 10

[Text] Amman—Prime Minister 'Abd al-Salam al-Majali said Tuesday [3 May] no Jordan-bound ship was intercepted by the enforcers of the sanctions against Iraq after the April 25 meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in London.

During that meeting, Mr. Christopher announced that subject to "some fine-tuning" Washington was accepting Jordan's proposal to replace the sea-based inspections by American-led warships with an on-shore sanctions verifications regime.

Dr. al-Majali, in a meeting with Egyptian reporters ahead of Thursday's meeting here of the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee, said that despite the acceptance announced by Mr. Christopher no further steps had been taken to place the sanctions-verifications regime at al-'Aqabah.

The fact that no ship was intercepted after the London meeting does not automatically mean that the inspectors have called off the maritime interceptions, Dr. al-Majali said.

At the same time, Dr. al-Majali reaffirmed Jordan's position that it would not allow any "inspection" of cargo at al-'Aqabah. Lloyds Register, the international neutral agency nominated to take over the sanctions-verification regime, was free to "observe" incoming and outgoing cargo at al-'Aqabah when Jordanian customs inspectors open them as required by the Kingdom's laws and regulations, he said.

The agency, he said, could report to the U.N. Sanctions Committee on its observations. Beyond that, Dr. al-Majali added, Jordan would not accept any arrangement that would infringe upon its sovereignty.

In his comments to the Egyptian journalists, Dr. al-Majali welcomed the resumption of meetings of the joint Jordanian-Egyptian committee and expressed hope that the meeting would lay the cornerstone for restoring Arab cooperation and coordination.

He said that the committee will also discuss means to bolster political relations.

The prime minister underlined the need for ending inter-Arab differences and "to open a new chapter, particularly at this criticial stage..."

Dr. al-Majali said it was essential that the Arabs assume an effective role in any regional order.

He said features of the "new world order" were not yet clear enough, nor are those of the regional Arab order.

"The only clear thing is that the United States is dominating the world under the new order," he added.

Dr. al-Majali said "There is no room under the new order for spectators" and emphasised the need for effective Arab input in shaping this order.

Dr. al-Majali said Jordan's participation in the multilateral peace talks has been reduced to an observer status to protest the continued blockade of al-'Aqabah port. He noted that multilateral talks are meant to address economic and social problems.

On the Palestinian-Israeli accord, Dr. al-Majali said what was taking place between the Palestinian and Israelis was an affair concerning the two parties.

"We shall accept what the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, accepts," he said. "However, we do not want the result of any accord to negatively affect us."

He added that Jordan had hoped for greater Jordanian-Palestinian coordination, given the unique brotherly, historical relations between the two peoples.

Husyan Reiterates Commitment to Peace Process

JN0405122194 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has reiterated Jordan's commitment to the peace process. Jordan is looking for a viable peace under a state of affairs different from what has prevailed so far. We have to band together as never before to cope with all eventualities, his majesty said. We have been under sustained pressure, not least due to our advocacy of democracy, shura, and the individual's right to help fashion his future. In our opinion, this is the only road to stability and Arab strength.

Interviewed by the Paris-based magazine AL-SIYSAH AL-DUWALIYAH, his majesty said that, God willing, Jordan and Jordanians shall keep their heads held high and will never bow, except to God. We must brace for further pressure, his majesty said.

His majesty said we in Jordan are determined to preserve the unity of all the components of our large family . We mean to keep our march moving on the lines of the National Charter, the Constitution, democracy, shura, and respect for human rights. His majesty said he was worried by the lack of coordination among Arab parties, given the state of inter-Arab affairs, which lessens our chances of attaining the desired settlement.

Israel, he said, has failed to fulfill its duties, and must, as an occupying power, be held responsible for a string of events, including the burning of the al-Aqsa Mosque and the transgressions on Christian holy places. I will do the impossible, his majesty said, to make sure that that Jordan remains a beacon for the larger Arab world and continues to fulfill its role and duty.

Al-Hariri Returns From Paris, Damascus

NC0305194694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri returned to Beirut via Damascus this evening after a private visit to Paris. Al-Hariri left the French capital for Damascus this morning where he met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and had lunch with him. He also met with a number of senior Syrian officials. As soon as he arrived in Beirut, al-Hariri contacted President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri to discuss current developments with them.

Buwayz Invited to Cairo, Comments on Talks

NC0305172594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 3 May 94

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has received an invitation from his Egyptian counterpart 'Amr Musa to attend the signing ceremony of the Palestinian-Israeli Agreement. It has not been decided whether Lebanon will respond to the invitation.

Minister Buwayz today discussed developments in the bilateral talks in light of the talks that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has had in Damascus and other concerned regional states.

Buwayz expects Christopher's current tour to result in an invitation to attend the 13th round of bilateral peace talks. He believes that the proposals submitted to Syria in the past 24 hours are vague, because the Israeli proposal offers phased withdrawal from parts of the Golan Heights, starting with Majdal Shams. The proposals do not mention what will happen after that. Syria, he said, demands full withdrawal.

Buwayz added: I believe that Syria is not very enthusiastic about these proposals, because it wants to know how withdrawals will begin and end even if they are phased. From the information I got from Damascus in the past 24 hours, I got the impression that these proposals are not tempting. I do not want to sound pessimistic and say that they are the last proposals. They will certainly be followed by others. But the first round of talks in Damascus did not sound constructive according to the latest reports.

Minister Buwayz said that negotiations continuing for three years since Madrid have produced few results. The Palestinian-Israeli track produced the Gaza-Jericho Agreement, which remains a very modest achievement, he said, adding: This agreement mentions a 350-km square Gaza and Jericho and gives the Palestinians rights in municipalities. It involves no political rights. It also notes that Israeli military troops will continue to deploy at the entrance to Gaza and Jericho.

The foreign minister was talking to a delegation from the Netherlands including professors and students from the faculty of law. The delegation is currently on a tour that will take it to Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Jerusalem, and Gaza to get acquainted with the peace process and the progress it has made. [passage omitted]

As for the Lebanese-Israeli track, the problem looks much easier than it is. The Israelis say they have no ambitions on Lebanese land and water. This has remained mere talk in the media; it has not been interpreted in practical offers or proposals to withdraw during the ongoing negotiations.

Buwayz added: We propose that Israel announce and bind itself to the principle of withdrawal from the land it occupies in the south. This principle paves the way for setting up two security and military committees to study the necessary security measures in the south to guarantee peace and stability in the region simultaneously with the programed Israeli withdrawal. I believe the Israelis do not want to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425 because it does not involve a peace agreement with Lebanon. This resolution demands Israel's unconditional withdrawal from the Lebanese territory it occupies.

The foreign minister continued: The second reason that leads Israel to refrain from responding to Lebanon's demands is that it does not want to recognize the principle of military withdrawal until Lebanon restricts or suspends resistance activity. But the Lebanese stance on the Israeli viewpoint is the opposite; occupation can only be met with one of two things: Diplomacy, that is, implementing Resolution 425, or liberation by the army. Israel refuses the first approach and the United Nations has not put pressure on it to accept it. As for the second approach, the Lebanese Army is not militarily prepared to confront the Israeli army.

Hence the resistance was organized by the Lebanese people, who are entitled to restore their land as long as the state cannot do it.

Buwayz reiterated that resistance in the south is a result of the Israeli occupation. It will lose its justification once the occupier leaves, he said.

Ja'ja' Interrogation Delayed for Health Reasons

NC0405061194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] The investigations into the bombing of the Sayyidat al-Najat Church and the assassination of Engineer Dany Sham'un are continuing. Lebanese Forces leader Dr. Samir Ja'ja' was interrogated by the judicial investigating judge for the third time yesterday in the case on the assassination of Eng. Sham'un and his family.

However, the investigating judge could not proceed with the interrogation due to the health and psychological condition of Dr. Ja'ja'. Judicial sources said that defense lawyer As'ad Abu-Ra'd protested against interrogating Dr. Ja'ja' in view of his poor health. The investigating judge agreed to postpone the interrogation until the health of Dr. Ja'ja' improves.

Meanwhile, forensic doctor Subhi Germanus examined Dr. Ja'ja' yesterday. The report confirms that the health of Dr. Ja'ja' is good. A copy of the report will be conveyed to the defense lawyer today.

France's Juppe Urges 'Awn To Show 'Restraint'

PM0405080694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Apr 94 ppl, 4

[Unattributed report: "Two Statements to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Juppe: We Will Not Hand 'Awn Over; 'Awn: I Respect the Restraint Decision"]

[Text] Paris, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The issue of opening Lebanese security and political files has reached France because most Lebanese opposition leaders are in Paris.

The most complicated issue is that related to the presence of [former Lebanese Prime Minister] General Michel 'Awn whose position there is extraordinary because he is neither a political refugee nor an ordinary foreigner residing in France.

In the agreement under which 'Awn left Lebanon for Marseilles and then La Hutte Maison, the French authorities promised to receive the Lebanese guest and provide protection for him provided he fulfilled a number of conditions. According to a high-ranking French source, the most important condition was that 'Awn should exercise restraint and not carry out any political activity on French soil.

It seems that 'Awn has begun to seriously annoy the Lebanese Government since he announced preparations for a national conference which he invited the opposition to attend in the French capital in June.

Lebanese official sources have hinted that 'Awn's financial file might be reopened and that there is a possibility that a request could be made for his extradition.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT asked French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe if his government had received any such official request. Juppe replied "we have heard some echos about this matter but there is no official Lebanese request. At any rate, handing 'Awn over is out of the question but we will impress upon him the need to exercise the utmost restraint."

Juppe seized the opportunity to call for a new Lebanese law for radio and television media "as soon as possible to enable everyone to express himself freely," in fulfillment of the promises made by the Lebanese Government to the French authorities. The French official also said that he wished that "judicial procedures in Lebanon would be carried out legally and legitimately, upholding the right of defense." He was referring to the file of the recent assassinations and explosions.

Meanwhile, in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Gen. 'Awn said that he "intends to honor the restraint commitment" and would, therefore, refrain from holding any press conferences or organizing political demonstrations. He added that he would only answer the numerous telephone calls he gets from Lebanon and various parts of the world.

On the claims that the Lebanese state was trying to open a dialogue with him, 'Awn said: "That kind of talk remains a kind of informational maneuvering. If there is anything serious, those concerned ~~in Lebanon and~~ outside it (Syria) should state their position in advance on a number of fundamental non-negotiable issues, namely the restoration of full sovereignty and freedom and independence of Lebanese decisionmaking."

'Awn added: "Everything else is negotiable. I am one of those who advocate respect for the vital interests of Lebanon's neighbors and for realistic dialogue with them, free from any complexes."

'Awn said that the "attempts of the current authorities in Lebanon are part of the policy of intimidation and temptation." He revealed that attempts were made in the past to hold a dialogue with him but they failed because "the government could not provide answers to the questions I asked."

Hizballah: Christopher Seeks To 'Divide' Arabs

NC0305132394 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 30 Apr 94 p 3

[Text] Hizballah has stated that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region is not designed to overcome the obstacles hindering the bilateral negotiations but to further divide the Arab ranks. It stressed that Washington is only pursuing its traditional policy of fragmenting and undermining the Arab position and enhancing the circumstances conducive to imposing a settlement according to Zionist conditions.

Hizballah released a statement yesterday on Christopher's tour, saying: Christopher's tour comes at a time when there are expectations of a possible relaxation in the negotiating process after the complications caused by the massacres that the Zionists committed in the occupied territories, notably the massacre in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, which left more than 60 Palestinians dead and hundreds wounded and maimed.

Those who are optimistic about Christopher's tour believe that U.S. diplomacy is again focusing on the conflict in the region, particularly in view of the approaching date for the signing of the limited administrative self-rule agreement between the Zionists and 'Arafat. The statement said: Washington may consider the signing of the agreement as an accomplishment that it has long waited for and that it may pave the way for further breakthroughs on the other negotiating tracks.

It seems obvious, however, that Christopher is not coming to the region to help surmount the obstacles hampering the negotiations, as reported, but to focus on enhancing the policy of dividing the Arab stance. The U.S. secretary of state wants to put more pressure on the Gulf countries to abolish all boycotting of Israel and, consequently, to demand that they exert all possible efforts to pressure Syria to respond to the Zionist conditions for a settlement.

Regarding Jordan, Christopher will use the lifting of the siege of Aqaba port not in return for Jordan's renewed participation in the negotiations, as certain people imagine, but for signing a bilateral agreement with the Zionist entity.

The statement added: Regarding Lebanon, the U.S. conditions were set before Christopher's tour of the region. These conditions were declared by enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin: "Halting and disarming the resistance, assimilating Lahd's militiamen, and initiating negotiations leading to security arrangements in south Lebanon." The U.S. ambassador in Beirut reasserted the same conditions during his recent meetings with Lebanese officials.

The statement added: Regarding the Palestinian track, the Americans show their satisfaction with the approaching date for the signing of the self-rule agreement because it reflects Yasir 'Arafat's acceptance of the maximum Zionist conditions and minimum prerequisites for the limited self-rule.

Hizballah noted that Washington, which claims to sponsor the peace process, is in fact pursuing its traditional policy of fragmenting and undermining the Arab position and promoting the circumstances conducive to imposing a settlement according to the Zionist conditions. We emphasize that Washington fully adopts this policy, otherwise where are the U.S. commitments that have been declared since the Madrid conference, which were reasserted at the Geneva summit? We believe that these commitments are only cosmetic to improve the image of the U.S. role and conceal its truth and hazards.

The statement said: In the past we warned that the fragile Arab situation will not enable the Arabs to stand up to the U.S.-Zionist onslaught, which at one time seeks to take the Arabs unilaterally and at another to pressure the Arabs to normalize ties with Israel. This means that the Arab negotiating policy has never embodied its own interests or was able to cope with this stage of the confrontation. Hence the importance of the role that the resistance is playing in south Lebanon and the intifadah in the occupied Palestinian territories in confronting the policy of penetrating the Arab ranks, taking them unilaterally, or exhorting them to normalize ties with Israel, and in offsetting Arab defeats. The resistance in the south and the intifadah in the occupied territories are making progress to offset the astonishing concessions being made by the ilk of 'Arafat and certain Arab countries, particularly the Gulf countries.

Fadlallah on Government, Ties to Other States

JN0305182694 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 2-8 May 94 pp 17-18

[Interview with Hizballah spiritual leader Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah by Faysal Jallul in Beirut; date not given]

[Text] [Jallul] Are you still the spiritual leader of Hizballah?

[Fadlallah] Should I apologize for having such a title? This title has never had any significance on the organizational level. It was given to me by Western intelligence services when they found nobody else in the arena. For 40 years now, I have been an Islamic activist on a broad level; I have never tied myself down to any specific party. In Iraq, I opened up to the al-Da'wah Party, while I was not one of them. I also have had ties with Hizballah and other parties in the Islamic world. I am an active Shiite not in the ideological sense, but in the Islamic sense. At the same time, my mind was open to all other secular streams. Since the fifties, I have struck up friendships with communists, nationalists, and Ba'thists. I always talk to them because I do not believe in having a closed mind toward anybody else, since everybody who believes in, respects, and takes pride in his thinking should respect the thinking of others.

[Jallul] It seems that the Islamic stream should today confront the progress made on the level of establishing the state institutions. This means the Islamic stream either confronts or accommodates this development. What will this stream choose?

[Fadlallah] I do not think that any Islamic current can have reservations about the establishment of the state, in its broad sense, since it is either a state or anarchy. We as Muslims think that, as the leaders of the faithful say, the people should have a ruler, because a vacuum does not serve anybody and because anarchy can contribute more to the disintegration of society than a bad government. Therefore, no one can put forward the option of having or not having a state. The only option is that there should be a state; people can then work within this state to oppose its plans and to propose ideas that could change its attitudes in the future. The opposition acts within the state, and not outside it. We in Lebanon oppose security, social, and political disorder.

[Jallul] Does this mean you are for a peaceful transfer of power and agree to the Constitution and all other pillars of the state?

[Fadlallah] There is a difference. To feel that there must be a state does not mean you believe in all its components. We coexist with falsehood, but do not recognize its legitimacy. It is similar to anyone who promotes a certain thinking: this person believes his thinking is the legitimate authority, in the principled sense of legitimacy; however, this person does not defy the legitimate authority he finds in his country that preserves public order. He might, of course, ask people by peaceful means to join his legitimate authority.

[Jallul] Do you condone modern activities and appearances in your region?

[Fadlallah] When you come to the suburb, Ba'labakk, or some areas in the south, you will see an unveiled woman walking next to a veiled woman. You will also hear one radio carrying all sorts of songs, as well as another radio carrying Islamic songs. People exercise their freedoms in a very normal way. Since the Islamic movement was launched, it has never been reported that a woman was beaten because she was not wearing a veil. Also, schoolgirls have never been forced to wear a veil.

[Jallul] Can the Communist Party hold a political symposium near your residence?

[Fadlallah] It used to do that. Perhaps, when there was an act of sedition, some people had fears in view of the general atmosphere so they refrained from any activities. There is no such thing as an Islamic republic in the suburbs or Ba'labakk or about Islam being enforced, one way or another.

[Jallul] But you know that a criminal was executed at your party's headquarters, the Islamic way?

[Fadlallah] The issue was related to a tribal movement, and the area was heading toward sedition, in which blood could have been shed indiscriminately. The Islamists did not move to arrest or execute the killer, but the people called for the implementation of the Islamic law. So, the killer was executed with the consent of all the tribes concerned with this issue. There was an official silence by various officials who approved this without declaring it. The state could not prevent the shedding of blood due to the circumstances of the tribal community. Moreover, you know that the state has never been able to stop tribal acts of revenge except through reconciliation and accord.

[Jallul] The state says that the media must be organized. Do you agree with this?

[Fadlallah] The fact is that anyone who has money in Lebanon can establish a television station. It is a paradox that those who own the illegal television stations, as they say, occupy prominent positions in the state. So parties who used to own television stations have sold them to those who have money. Making money the basis for the establishment of television or radio stations regardless of the policy of this or that news media could be a serious issue. However, the issue which imposes itself in every democratic state, or any state which believes in freedoms, if we do not want to use the word democracy, is that who determines the seriousness of or the need for another news media? Is it the state?

[Jallul] Yes, if we accept the state's authority.

[Fadlallah] Perhaps, the state is responsible for people's security concerning what they hear or read. This could be true when the state and its men are trustworthy people. The state that used to own television and radio stations did not prevent its men from establishing illegal television and radio stations at their own expense, why? I wonder if the militias, as they say, violate the law, why don't the state men violate the law? Why do they have their own news media if the state's news media meet the country's need? This means that the state did not present a successful media program to the people that meets their needs and fulfills their aspirations, and which represents the democratic slogan of the state.

[Jallul] Are not we supposed to give the state some time, especially since less than two years have passed on its plan to enforce the law?

[Fadlallah] We note that some people have contributed to confusing the state by adding news media to the state run media and encouraged others to do so. This means that they have not strengthened the state's plan, but their own positions. The problem is that any president, whether he is number one, two, or three works to plant his men in the state institutions in order to be a reserve for him in the future to maintain his influence after he leaves his post.

[Jallul] Have not things always been this way?

[Fadlallah] They were not as aggressive as they are now. The problem in the past was that the statesmen used to take bribes, and the problem these days is that the statesmen bribe other people. This is why some people have contributed to corrupting the state. The deputy, the minister, the director general, this man of religion, that economic position are all taking bribes. We heard that no sect or party is allowed to have its own news media. So, since you recognize sectarianism and parties and you act in your position as a representative of this or that sect, then what is the difference between your sectarianism to which you resort and from which you derive strength, and that sectarianism which exists in a newspaper or a television station? If the government includes licensed parties why shouldn't these parties be allowed to have their own news media?

[Jallul] There is a great deal of fear that the "Islamic resistance" seeks to gain domestic weight?

[Fadlallah] I can say that the Islamic resistance is a movement that confronts Zionism, particularly in Lebanon. This resistance is not an exhibitionist or an adventurous movement. I can also assert to everyone that the Islamic resistance does not have any internal plan in Lebanon unless it, as a community, is subjected to mad repression, in which case it is natural for the Islamic resistance to defend itself.

[Jallul] Why did other currents leave the resistance?

[Fadlallah] The problem is that these currents have isolated themselves from the scene. I talked to some of them who informed me about their economic problems.

In the past, they used to have financial support, and I believe this support has stopped.

[Jallul] Do you agree on the decision which dissolved the "Lebanese Forces?"

[Fadlallah] I do not have any data in this regard. We differ with "the forces" whether over their relations with Israel or their political proposals.

[Jallul] Do you believe that the Syrian-Iranian differences over the Middle East issue could have repercussions on the Islamic current in Lebanon?

[Fadlallah] I believe that Syrian-Iranian relations are based on an understanding of the circumstances surrounding Syria. The Islamic Republic [of Iran] appreciates these circumstances although it rejects the idea. Moreover, there is a strategic political situation surrounding the Iranian-Syrian relations, so you feel that both countries need one another. Thus, I do not imagine that the future relations with Iran would deteriorate even if Syria actually achieves reconciliation [with Israel]. This is so because there are other very deep issues which transcend the differences in political views, especially since Iran, which is opposed to reconciliation [with Israel], did not wage a fierce war on this issue.

[Jallul] You have frequently announced your support for the Islamic Salvation Front in Algeria. Do you not fear being accused of interfering in Algeria's internal affairs?

[Fadlallah] All influential parties are interfering in Algeria. I know that the French are interfering strongly, and France has a broad current inside the Algerian Government. I also know that the United States is interfering effectively, and sometimes it may suggest that it is supportive of the Salvation Front. There are Arab states which support this or that team. Perhaps, Iran is the state that is extending the least support in Algeria. Others, however, have an arrogant media policy which tries to influence all their moves and schemes. The problem in Algeria is that it has turned into a scene for many international intelligence services. We are very sad about the situation in this country which was a symbol of awareness and freedom; we grew up on the heroic deeds of the Algerian mujahidin. We feel that the Algerian state is a victim of the U.S.-French conflict. As long as the United States is chasing France everywhere, and as long as France is trying to maintain its positions here and there, each country in the Arab World and in the Third World in which there is French influence will suffer in one way or another from what Algeria is suffering.

Hizballah Official on Lebanon, Other Issues

JN0305151694 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 2-8 May 94 pp 19, 20

["Text of dialogue" with Shaykh Na'im Qasim, deputy secretary general of Hizballah, by Faysal Jallul in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Jallul] Hizballah is at odds with the Lebanese State, and therefore, it has to either accept or reject it. It seems to us that your party has decided to adapt to the situation. This is clear because it did not respond to the al-Ghubayrah incident and because it takes part in parliamentary action and politics.

[Qasim] Adaptation usually means a relinquishment of principles. This is wrong and unacceptable. Adherence to principles, however, does not necessarily mean a military clash with those with whom we differ. The West may want to promote the idea that any ideological and political difference with a party like ours will inevitably lead to a military clash. We in Lebanon have chosen the way of clashes with the Israeli enemy only. On the internal level, we believe that ideological and political differences should not lead to military clashes. We also still believe in the need to promote the Islamic trend and thought as the best alternative for the people. We offer our faith to others, share with them issues acceptable to us and them, explain our views on issues of dispute, and do not believe in the use of force to impose our will on others.

Therefore, we did not respond militarily to the 13 September massacre. Those who perpetrated the massacre wanted to draw us into an internal military conflict to justify the international security situation, confuse the party, and try to settle some scores under the pretext that our party opted for a military clash, especially with the Lebanese Army.

We did not respond militarily because we do not believe in the use of that method by any side and because we did not want to be drawn into others' plans whenever and wherever they wanted. We view the 13 September massacre as part of a plan to strike at the resistance, and not as a transitory issue designed to prevent a peaceful demonstration.

Regarding mass media propaganda, we believe that this way pushes the country toward a unilateral military rule and will not lead to the establishment of a free, coexisting Lebanon, which we have known and which should continue to be. Without such freedoms, there will be no Lebanon. We have no interest in confronting the authority through newscasts, and we want to prevent any comparison between us and people blasting the Sayyidat al-Najat Church. Some people wanted such an unfair comparison. Therefore, we deprived them of such a chance.

[Jallul] You seem to be supporting the dissolution of the Lebanese Forces.

[Qasim] We are against any international explosion, we condemn any relationship with the Israeli enemy, and we build our relations with others on this basis. I believe that a peripheral issue led to the dissolution of the Lebanese Forces, and it is essential to concentrate on the nature of these forces and their positions. We clearly reject the logic of these forces and their relationship with the Israeli enemy. [passage omitted]

[Jallul] You are linked with Iran by spiritual and strategic ties, and you are linked with Syria by political relations on the ground. Do you not fear the risks of a collision between the two parties over the Middle East issue?

[Qasim] I believe that the collision assumption is wrong and baseless. The contrast in views on the Madrid conference is not new. Had collision been a possibility, it would have begun when the Madrid conference convened. Each of the two states appreciated the other state's position, convictions, and circumstances, so the relationship between them continued to be strong without being affected by what takes place in this regard.

I do not believe that there is a problem more sensitive than this one. Thus, the possibility of collision is ruled out, and the possibility of understanding and cooperation on common bases is the rule. In our relations with Iran and Syria, we do not feel that Iranian-Syrian relations are contradictory, and we feel that we are in harmony with both parties.

[Jallul] Many people fear that your resistance of Israel is meant to achieve domestic purposes.

[Qasim] Our resistance of Israel will give us a great asset among our people and kinsfolk who are yearning for the removal of Israel from every inch of occupied land. Thus, the outcome of confrontation with Israel cannot be separated from the repercussions on the domestic level. It is unfair to say that we are fighting Israel to increase our domestic weight. Fighting against Israel is part of our ideology, plan, and strategic conviction.

[Jallul] Will you continue to fight Israel if it withdraws from Lebanon?

[Qasim] We support the Palestinian people in defending their occupied territories because we regard this people as rightful. However, details of this support would be discussed at an appropriate time.

[Jallul] Are you negotiating with Israel on a possible withdrawal from southern Lebanon?

[Qasim] There is no need to negotiate with anyone. Israel can withdraw, and no one is preventing it from doing so. We do not want to conclude any security or political agreement with Israel because it is an occupying force and should withdraw from the territory it occupies.

[Jallul] In your slogans you say that "Israel is a germ" and should be removed from the map. Let us suppose that the Lebanese state and Israel would sign an agreement for withdrawal from southern Lebanon. Would you continue to open fire on Israel across the Lebanese border?

[Qasim] We will oppose any agreement that gives legitimacy to occupation which usurps lands.

[Jallul] In Palestine or Lebanon?

[Qasim] Anywhere in this occupied territory. Details on the way of dealing and on confrontation will be left for the future.

[Jallul] Is the Iranian "Revolutionary Guard" playing a role in the confrontation you are waging with Israel?

[Qasim] The Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard does not fight in southern Lebanon. However, it is known that some of its members are present in the al-Biqa' area; they play an educational and training role and do not participate in other matters. This is partly due to the Islamic leadership's attitude and partly due to the harmony among those concerned in the region.

[Jallul] Elections of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council were held recently. You participated in these elections in favor of Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din. Your failure to nominate an independent candidate was interpreted to mean that you are not permitted to occupy posts in the official shiite institutions.

[Qasim] Only those things which God banned us from doing are prohibited. We are convinced of the need to deal with these institutions, and we determine the way and limits of such dealing according to both our goals and the objective circumstances. In analyzing the situation of the Shiite Islamic Council, we found that Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din is the right man for this post. You know that in such cases a person may be nominated but another person may be selected. There is nothing strange in this matter.

Amal-Hizballah Tension Prevails in South

NC0405080894 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0700 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Our correspondent reports that tension is prevailing between the Amal Movement and Hizballah activists in 'Aytit and neighboring villages against a background of incidents involving the two parties in the past two days. The correspondent adds that the incidents took place after Hizballah elements provoked Amal Movement elements in the village.

Tension also prevails in Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr and other villages in the al-Nabatiyah district after Amal Movement elements accused Hizballah elements of killing Amal official Ni'mah Haydar about two weeks ago.

Press Demands Full Israeli Golan Pullout

JN0405093694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 4 May 94

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, TISHRIN stresses that Syria adheres to the principle of comprehensive and speedy withdrawal from the Golan Heights and the occupied territories as part of a complete solution of all substantive issues that leads to an honorable, genuine, durable, and firmly established peace in the Middle East.

TISHRIN says that since the day the U.S. initiative was launched, Syria has declared its rejection of partial, phased settlements. These do not make peace, but only inflame regional tension.

TISHRIN says the issue is not just the fact that the Golan is Syrian territory occupied by force in an aggressive, expansionist war. There are also tens of thousands of Golan residents who were forced to leave their homes and who still await their return home. There is also the issue of the city of al-Qunaytirah, which was completely destroyed by the Israeli troops, and which awaits to be rebuilt. Therefore, it is impossible to talk about a peace that does not include full Israeli withdrawal, the return of the evacuees, and the reconstruction of the region. Hence, the formula proposed by Syria: Full peace in return for full withdrawal. Full peace cannot be traded for partial withdrawal.

TISHRIN adds: What applies to the Golan also applies to southern Lebanon. There are tens of thousands of displaced people who are anxiously awaiting the withdrawal of the invading Israeli troops in order to return home.

TISHRIN believes the Israeli rulers have a unique opportunity to engage in a durable and genuine peace. This would be through responding to the Syrian ideas and the resolutions of international legitimacy.

TISHRIN concludes: Israeli rulers fully know that regional peace is impossible without Syria's effective participation, and that Syria's effective participation is impossible without the full withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Golan and the return of this Syrian territory to its owners.

Commenting on the same subject, AL-BA'TH says: What was published and said about the Israeli proposals on the Golan Heights during the past days, especially during Warren Christopher's regional tour, has proved again that Israel's course has nothing to do with the effort that is being exerted to salvage the peace process.

AL-BA'TH adds: Vagueness is the common denominator among recent Israeli officials' statements on the Rabin government's proposals on the Golan. Therefore, their objective is to circumvent the principles set at the Madrid conference.

AL-BA'TH says those proposals which were leaked by Israel to coincide with the arrival of the U.S. secretary of state in the region have nothing to do with the issue of a just, comprehensive peace. At their best, just like the Gaza-Jericho settlement, they consolidate Israel's policy of dividing the political settlement and entrenching the occupation in its various existing forms. According to Israeli officials, such settlements achieve the objectives they failed to achieve in all their aggressive wars against the Arabs.

AL-BA'TH says Syria works with absolute seriousness to achieve a just, comprehensive peace based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and on the basis of the Madrid formula. Syria, the paper adds, believes Israel's policy on the peace process remains unchanged. Apparently, this policy is unchangeable and unalterable. This policy still rejects commitment to the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy.

AL-BA'TH refers to what leader al-Asad said during his meeting with Christopher, when he stressed the need to tackle basic issues. These issues are the essence of the conflict. Their solution ensures progress in the peace process.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: More than two and one-half years of talks in Washington, and other diplomatic efforts, have proved that Israel is maneuvering, procrastinating, and evading the implementation of the basic conditions and requirements of peace, chiefly full withdrawal from Arab territories. In fact, what Israel seeks are settlements patterned after the Gaza-Jericho agreement. We reject such settlements. They are not a substitute for the aspired peace.

AL-THAWRAH says progress in the peace process is conditional on changing Israeli negotiating tactics and the commitment by Tel Aviv's rulers to the resolutions of international legitimacy and the UN Security Council and acceptance of the Madrid terms of reference as a basis for a just, comprehensive settlement on all fronts and tracks.

AL-THAWRAH says: So far, no one can see any substantive change in the negative Israeli position and performance regarding the political process or a single positive indicator of change in that policy in the near future—a policy of aggressive options and continued occupation of Arab territories and that stubbornly rejects all the bases of peace.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Based on what we have noted, Tel Aviv has offered nothing new to facilitate the Christopher mission. Everything it has proposed is only ideas and proposals, which, according to Israeli papers themselves, are vague offers of phased solutions that circumvent UN resolutions and do not constitute a basis for a serious and genuine breakthrough in the peace process.

On the other hand, what Christopher heard from President Hafiz al-Asad and the ideas and proposals that he was asked to convey embody the constants of the Syrian position, which proceed from a real desire to establish a just, comprehensive peace.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that Washington is required and beseeched to play an effective, impartial role to ensure respect for and compliance with international legitimacy and to forcefully impose their implementation on the obstructive party without any delay and without any bias.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: It is wrong to believe Syria can accept any solution that does not meet its just demands or ignores an iota of its national and pan-Arab rights and its uncontroversial full sovereignty over the Golan. Piecemeal and phased peace is rejected and unacceptable. Peace is impossible without full Israeli withdrawal.

Christopher's Tour, 'Half-Solutions' Viewed

JN0105092894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 1 May 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Syria's Principles," AL-THAWRAH says: Damascus is a primary stop on U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's current tour of the region. This is in view of Syria's effective role in the peace process since the Madrid conference, which essentially got off the ground when Syria agreed to take part in it, thus opening prospects for peace. The paper adds that despite Israel's desperate attempts to belittle the importance of Syria's role, all observers now publicly acknowledge the importance and centrality of this role. Observers are fully aware of the credibility of the Syrian stand on the peace process and the need for a comprehensive peace. They know that Syria has responded to the will of international legitimacy and the calls for implementing UN resolutions to establish peace and stability in the region in accordance with the land-for-peace formula.

The paper explains that, in light of Israel's intransigence and endeavors to turn the peace process into a series of partial, separate agreements and secret deals contravening the requirements and conditions of peace, the peace process has come to a dangerous impasse. The paper says that Syria has been well aware of Israel's deceptive methods and has dealt with them appropriately. Syria has also supported the efforts of the cosponsors of the peace initiative, especially the efforts of the U.S. sponsor, to get the peace process out of the bottleneck into which it has been pushed by the Tel Aviv rulers.

Stressing Syria's adherence to the prerequisites of peace, the paper says that Syria reaffirms the credibility of its stands and its acceptance of all that leads to the enforcement of the bases of the peace process and any efforts to advance it in accordance with its requirements and the hopes pinned on it. As leader al-Asad stressed in his meeting with the U.S. President in Geneva—during which al-Asad proposed the formula of full peace for full withdrawal—peace is a strategic part of Syria's policy. That stance won the admiration and support of the world and placed the ball in the Israeli court, as President Clinton himself put it.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says that Syria will continue to support just, comprehensive peace within the framework of international legitimacy and resolutions. Syria will never bargain over the Golan Heights, southern Lebanon, or other occupied Arab territories. Under no circumstances will Syria be dragged to half-solutions.

Afghanistan

'Famous' Dostam Commander Killed in Andkhoi District

LD0305202094 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 May 94

[Excerpt] A famous commander of Dostam's militia, Brigadier General Mohammad Zarif, was recently killed by his men in Andkhoi District in Jawzjan Province. A report received by the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY says the general was killed by Hesamoddin, one of his men. He and his six colleagues left Dostam's militia with their weapons and later joined the mojahedin of Lieutenant General Ata Mohammad in Balkh. [passage omitted]

Ten Killed, 80 Wounded in 'Intense' Infantry Attack

BK0405113094 Hong Kong AFP in English 1113 GMT 4 May 94

[By Terence White]

[Text] Kabul, May 4 (AFP)—At least 10 people were killed and 80 wounded in a brief but intense overnight infantry attack by rival factions battling Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani, frontline and hospital sources said Wednesday.

A combined infantry force of Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar and Uzbek General Abdol Rashid Dostam based in and around the Old Microrayan housing estate attacked pro-Rabbani troops across the Kabul River in an attempt to establish a foothold there.

"The enemy's morale was too weak to sustain an infantry attack so they used their heavy weapons," frontline commander Sabor of the defending pro-Rabbani troops told AFP.

Speaking from his base in the new Microrayan housing estate facing the Uzbek opposition dug-in no more than 100 metres across the Kabul River, Sabor said three of his men were wounded while he had received a report that at least 10 of the attacking force had been killed.

The 30-minute exchange of small-arms fire was the most intense witnessed by locals for several weeks. Even to the rear of the combat zone in Wazir Akbar Khan residential area, incoming rounds smacked against houses like raindrops on a tin roof.

Pro-Rabbani troops based in the apartments of the new Microrayan housing estate have converted what were once bedrooms and sitting-rooms to frontline bunkers with firing slits protected by massive walls of sandbags.

Even so, from the heights of the Uzbek-occupied Maranjan Hill behind Old Microrayan, direct hits by Dostam's heavy artillery gunners have broken up the steel-reinforced concrete walls of these four-storey apartment blocks like they were lumps of dry cake.

On Wednesday, delegates said to be representing 15 peace organizations met at the Intercontinental Hotel and proposed a unified draft aimed at ending the factional fighting in Afghanistan.

In 11 articles which rehash previously tried and failed proposals, the Unified Draft of the Afghan Joint Reconciliative Assembly calls for a ceasefire and the convening of a national Grand Assembly to elect a parliament and new Afghan leader.

While considerable thought has been given to the mechanics of selecting delegates to the National Assembly, the establishment of a ceasefire—a necessary prerequisite for an election—is mentioned only in passing.

The prospects of immediate peace in Kabul can only be advanced by a sincere reconciliation between the two main rivals, Rabbani and Hekmatyar, who until now have refused to come to terms with each other, observers said.

Dostam-Golboddin Militia Fires 83 Rockets on Kabul

LD0305200094 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] Eighty-three rockets and mortar shells were fired into residential areas of Kabul today by Dostam-Golboddin militia. A responsible source of the General Command of Kabul Garrison told a military correspondent of BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY that today's rockets, which were fired from Golboddin-Dostam controlled areas into the city of Kabul, landed in wards 1, 2, 4, 9, 10, and 11. As a result, one of our innocent compatriots was martyred and nine others were injured. One house was destroyed.

Arms Depot of Golboddin-Dostam Militia Set Ablaze

LD0305200394 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] A large arms and ammunition depot of Golboddin's militia in Riskhor area caught fire last night. A large quantity of arms and ammunition, including heavy weapons and various kinds of rockets, were stored in the depot to be used to kill our innocent people. Reports say the fire and explosions started in the depot at 2200 [1730 GMT] and continued until 0300 in the night. As a result of the fire, which was accompanied by terrifying explosions, a large quantity of Golboddin-Dostam's arms and ammunition and various kinds of stored rockets have been destroyed. No report has been received on the cause of the fire or loss of life.

Iran

Talks With Iraq on Relations, Joint Committees Noted

LD0405105594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] At a meeting this morning between Hikmat 'Abd-al- Khudayyir al-Daylami, the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Tehran, and Mohammad Javad Zarif, the deputy foreign minister for international affairs, they discussed latest developments in relations between the two countries, the formation of working committees based on the agreement reached between the deputy foreign ministers of the two countries, and preparations for Mr. Velayati's trip to Iraq. According to this report joint working committees of the two countries are to be established in the near future.

Armenian Vice President 'Regrets' Downing of Plane

Arrives for 2-Day Talks

LD0305115694 Tehran IRNA in English 1113 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 3, IRNA—Armenian Vice-President Gagik Arutyunyan arrived here Tuesday on a two-day visit to hold talks with Iranian officials on the crash of an Iranian plane in Karabakh in March and to convey a message of condolence from the Armenian president to Iranian authorities. The Armenian official was greeted at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport by Iranian Vice President for Economic Affairs Mohsen Nurbakhsh.

Speaking to IRNA upon arrival, Arutyunyan expressed regret over the incident, saying expert teams from Iran and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) were still investigating the issue to find out the cause of the crash. The Iranian passanger plane was downed near Stepanakert region in Karabakh on March 17, killing all its 32 passengers and crew on board. The victims were families of Iranian diplomats in Russia and Iranian students abroad.

Arutyunyan said that there were many ambigious points surrounding the crash which would be unraveled after the experts completed their invstigations. He said the staff of Armenia's control tower had done their best to prevent the plane from flying off its route. He promised "if the staff of the Armenian control tower are found guilty of negligence they will be punished." Arutyunyan added that during his stay here, he would discuss Iran-Armenia relations, expansion of bilateral ties and regional issues with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Majlis vice speaker, the foreign minister, minister economic and financial affairs and his counterpart Nurbakhsh.

Meets With Deputy Majles Speaker

LD0305185694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] Mr. Gagik Arutyunyan, Armenian vice president, at a meeting with Hasan Rowhani, deputy Majles speaker, this afternoon praised the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its continual and earnest efforts to bring to an end the war between Azerbaijan and Armenia. He expressed the hope that the war would end soon, judging by certain visible signs.

Referring to the downing of the aircraft carrying families of Iranian diplomats in the Karabakh region, on behalf of the government and people of Armenia, he expressed deep regret about the incident. Stressing that the Armenian Government would stop at nothing to discover the cause of the incident, he assured: If the smallest evidence of negligence by the Armenian authorities comes to light the culprits would be severely punished.

At the meeting Mr. Rowhani described Iran's fundamental policy on stability and peace and prevention of any act which would disrupt stability. He said the friendly ties between Iran and Armenia were based on those principles. He stressed Iran's support for a fair and honorable peace in the region.

He described as unconvincing the reasons given so far by the Armenian Government regarding the downing of the Iranian plane. He expressed the hope that with the continuation of the investigation and the cooperation of the Armenian authorities with the Iranian team of experts, the unclear aspects of the incident would become clear to the Iranian nation.

He referred to the active presence of Armenian deputies in the Majles. He said expansion of parliamentary ties between Iran and Armenia should be considered within the framework of the expansion of mutual relations.

Received by Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD0405104294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today received Armenian Vice President Gagik Arutyunyan. During this meeting the president referred to the incident of the Iranian plane crash in the Karabakh region as a bitter and unpleasant tragedy and stressed it would not serve the two countries' interests to leave the true cause of this tragedy unclear. Iran expects the outcome of the investigating team's work to be made available as soon as possible so as to inform the people of the two countries and particularly the families of the victims. Iran expects that if negligence is proved the culprit is punished.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to this incident as one of the sinister consequences of the futile war between the republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia in the Karabakh region. He added: Resorting to military force is not a suitable alternative for resolving the Karabakh dispute, and this war will have no military victor.

Stressing the need for finding a political and peaceful solution to the Karabakh conflict, the president reiterated Iran's readiness to help stop more bloodshed and homelessness of this region's people.

The Armenian vice president, in the course of this meeting, said the objective of his visit to Iran is to provide some explanations to the cause of the Iranian C-130 plane crash. He offered condolences and conveyed the deep regret of the Armenian Government to the Iranian Government and people, particularly to the families of the victims, and said: I will personally pursue this case until the cause of the Iranian plane crash is cleared, and I shall inform the Iranian Government of the outcome.

He also presented a report to the president on the latest developments of the Karabakh conflict.

Pakistani Interior Minister Arrives in Tehran

LD0405100394 Tehran IRNA in English 0933 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 4, IRNA—Pakistan regards the assassination of former Iranian cultural attache to Pakistan, Sadeq Ghanji, a great crime and is trying to arrest the murderer as soon as possible, said the visiting Pakistani minister of interior, Nasrullah Khan Babar.

Babar was referring to the recent escape of Ghanji's murderer from police custody in Pakistan.

Talking to the reporters upon arrival here Wednesday, Babar said that his delegation would discuss with Iranian officials issues of mutual interest including campaign against drug trafficking along Iran-Pakistan joint borders.

Iran's minister of interior, 'Ali Mohammed Besharati, who greeted his Pakistani counterpart at the airport, said that the two countries would explore avenues to intensify campaign against drug trafficking.

He further said that Iran was in the frontline of anti-drug campaign, adding that further cooperation between Iran and Pakistan would be fruitful in this regard.

FRG's Kohl Sends Message to President

LD0305184194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] The German charge d'affaires in Tehran met the deputy foreign minister for Europe and America affairs this afternoon and handed over a message from German Chancellor Helmut Kohl to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In his message the German chancellor welcomes the deepening of ties between his country and Iran and stresses the strategic importance of the Persian Gulf region and the necessity for maintaining security in the region by Persian Gulf littoral states and for regional and international cooperation.

UK Group Accused of Supporting 'Terrorists'

LD0305191294 Tehran IRNA in English 1454 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] London, May 3, IRNA—A UK parliamentary group, known to be actively involved in supporting anti-Iran terrorists, renewed its campaign of smears against the Tehran government Tuesday by trying to widen the offensive into an international conspiracy.

In a letter to THE TIMES, president of the so-called Parliamentary Human Rights Group, Lord Avebury, supported the paper's call for a "tougher policy" against Iran but made no mention of his links with mojahedin terrorists.

The close association of Lord Avebury and others, including the London-based United Nations Association Director, Malcolm Harper, in supporting the fomenting of anti-Iran terrorist activities come as an embarrassment for the UK in making fresh smears against Iran.

A new propaganda campaign was launched last week by Foreign Office Minister, Douglas Hogg, claiming that the Iranian intelligence service had connections with the IRA, who are waging an armed struggle against British rule in Northern Ireland.

Hogg himself has been accused by the friends and family of human rights solicitor, Patrick Finucane, of being at least partially responsible for the 1989 assassination of the Belfast lawyer by loyalist terrorists.

One of the focuses of Lord Avebury has been to promote the image of mojahedin terrorists and to present the Iraq-based grouplet as a 'legitimate' opposition movement under the banner of 'The National Council of Resistance of Iran.'

Last month, he was photographed by an MKO publication meeting one of its leaders, Maryam Rajavi, for two-hours at her residence in France. He was quoted "praising" the policy of the terrorist group.

In the same publication, a review was made of numerous armed attacks and bombings carried out by the terrorist group in Iran over the past year. The group has been responsible for hundreds of innocent lives since failing to overturn the 1979 Islamic revolution.

A report published by the so-called parliamentary human rights group in March, entitled 'The Tehran Murder Machine,' like Amnesty International reports, is understood to be largely based upon the propaganda disseminated by the terrorist group.

Lord Avebury's letter to THE TIMES Tuesday was also seen containing many of the crudities of the MKO literature both in language and in allegations.

Other political groups, including the Labor Party, which in the past have supported the MKO, have generally distanced themselves from their known associations with the terrorist group, since its headquarters were moved to Baghdad in the late 1980.

Many MKO members are still harbored by the UK, and even allowed to parade their literature that has included explicit instructions on making bombs and explosives that apparently have been ignored by the British campaign against terrorism.

Western Media Aim To 'Belittle' Revolution

NC0205162494 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 23 Apr 94 p 14

[Commentary by Engineer Mohaqqeq: "The West's Formulas for Propaganda Against the Islamic Republic of Iran"]

[Excerpts] The campaign to deceive world public opinion and mold minds to serve Western interests, spearheaded by the United States campaign in favor of Zionism and against Islam, is among the most important policies of the United States, Britain, Zionism and its minions. They also make their greatest investment for this purpose.

The fact that the Islamic Revolution in Iran is the fountainhead of the awakening of the world Muslims and has openly exposed the true misanthropic nature of the United States has resulted in ever increasing expenditures in the cultural and propaganda fields against Islamic Iran. Extensive efforts are being made to distort the image of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The motto of all the Western mass media, which are controlled by the psychological warfare centers, is: "In order to belittle the message of the Islamic Revolution and prevent them having any effect on world public opinion, accusations should be heaped on the Islamic Republic of Iran." This design has been implemented comprehensively and regularly in the past 15 years; and on certain occasions, its intensity and volume have even been increased.

Whenever world public opinion or a Western country becomes suspicious of the conduct of the government of one of its subservient countries and lodges a protest, the Islamic Republic of Iran exposes the facts effectively; and for this it is subjected to accusations. The following examples will help in understanding this:

When an Arab reactionary government takes a step in the direction of despotic Israel, its main concern is about Iran's objections, the propaganda from our press, and the spreading of their message to the Muslim nations. As a result it fears the protests of the public in the Muslim countries and seeks some recourse. On such occasions, the Israeli, Western, and Arab media make concerted accusations that the Islamic Republic of Iran has covert relations with the Zionist regime. These accusations are then disseminated in the Arab media, especially in the headlines of the country that intends to take a step in Israel's direction.

Usually such items are carried in some remote corner in the Israeli publications, are then cited by Western media, and then are picked up by the Arab reactionaries and flaunted extensively. Of course in the West, such reports are only used to the extent that the target country (the Arabs) can quote them. [passage omitted]

Today the West's involvement in the massacre of the Bosnian Muslims is clear to all. Today, as before, the voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran is the most outspoken in denouncing the collusion of the West and the Serbs. And now the West is seeking to justify its shortcomings with regard to the Bosnian Muslims to the world public.

The West does not wish to have its collusion with the Serbs mentioned and exposed, and so continues its propaganda to conceal its true visage. However, the voice of our people and government officials is loud. Therefore we should anticipate a spate of hostile propaganda against ourselves in accordance with their aforementioned pattern.

Soon they will unleash a deluge of stale and baseless accusations against our country which will not necessarily pertain to Bosnia-Herzegovina. It could be a false claim of some counterfeit U.S. dollars, unfounded allegations that Iran is attempting to manufacture a nuclear bomb, or charges that Iran is a danger to its neighbors. Perhaps they will find some new pretext regarding the violation of human rights in our country and may persuade the so-called human rights organizations such as Amnesty International to issue a statement against the Islamic Republic of Iran. They may even attribute to us the downing of some plane of theirs or an explosion in a commercial building in New York to us. They can resort to just anything.

The United States needs to accelerate its campaign of accusations against the Islamic Republic of Iran, but now Bosnia-Herzegovina has also raised its voice. The Bosnian president has called for the resignation of the UN secretary general and has exposed the West's shortcomings in defending the honor and lives of the Bosnian Muslims. [passage omitted]

The U.S. defeat in Somalia, the rise of Islamism among the people of the Islamic countries, conditions in Algeria and Egypt, the Islamic Resistance Movement in Palestine, the struggle of the Muslim people in Lebanon, the dissolution of the Soviet Union, and in particular, the tragedy of the Bosnian people in the heartland of Europe are all manifestations of divine radiance overwhelming the darkness of heresy.

Interior Minister Says UN Lacks Credibility

LD3004192594 Tehran IRNA in English 1900 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 30, IRNA—Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammed Besharati said here today that the lack of credibility of the United Nations and its Security Council has become the "problem of the 20th century" and considered it as damaging to the Secuirty Council.

Besharati in his meeting with the Australian Ambassador here, Nicholas Warner, referred to injustice in the Security Council and said the Senate of the U.S. in contrast to the view of its government is calling for the lifting of arms embargo on B-H [Bosnia-Herzegovina] and "this indicates the depth of the crisis which will lead the West to deadlock."

The UN Security Council under pressure from the United States and other Western powers is refusing to lift the arms embargo against the aggressed Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina despite the demands by Islamic countries including Iran.

The interior minister told the Australian ambassador that "what our people want is human rights in the real sense of the term and what the Westerners are after is a particular culture that has led them to a dead end."

The two also reviewed bilateral ties, with Warner emphasizing on the necessity of expansion of Iran-Australia cooperation.

Warner described the latest situation in Australia and said that exchange visits between the officials of the two countries and exchange of opinions can be effective in expanding relations in such fields as political, economic and cultural.

Besharati replied that one of the ways of expanding economic relations was for Iran and Australia to identify their present capacities.

Foreign Ministry Official on Bosnia Decision, UK

LD3004215194 Tehran IRNA in English 2048 GMT 30 Apr 94

[Text] Tehran, April 30, IRNA—The catastrophe of Bosnia-Herzegovina shows that when the solution is not in the same direction with the policies and interest of each one of the permanent members of the Security Council they do not make an immediate decision to prevent that crisis even if it should cost the trampling on the rights of a nation.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi who made the above remarks in an interview with IRNA here today, said the talks between the United Nations secretary general and foreign ministers of the contact group of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) on the Bosnian crisis, confirmed for the first time in UN history, that the Security Council's problem of making decisions for solving disputes has not only been the characteristic of the Cold War era and the East-West dispute, "but the standard and the yardstick has been the interests of the permanent members of the Council that has made decision-making difficult and sometimes impossible."

He added that the OIC contact group with political and legal reasoning drew the attention of the Security Council to the tasks it has for peace and defending the rights of the peoples on the basis of the principles and goals of the UN Charter. The group criticized that failure to meet those goals has led to the weakening of sovereignty and the ethnic-cleansing in Bosnia.

The group maintained that in the post Cold War era following the previous policies is unjustifiable.

According to Mohammadi, the second issue is that the Security Council for the first time during two years of bloodshed in B-H and the efforts of the 51 Muslim countries and their solidarity in defence of Muslim rights, realized the presence of some new form of racial discrimination in the west similar to South African apartheid, and the frankness in the speeches of OIC ministers to which the secretary general has referred, naturally cannot be without effect in activities and future decisions of the Security Council.

Asked by IRNA whether the West intends to weaken the solidarity of Muslim states, he said obviously the establishment of this kind of Islamic solidarity in defending the Muslims of B-H was unexpected both for the Security Council and certain western states.

The spokesman said Iran has always made efforts at the OIC, the UN and the Non-Aligned Movement as well as in bilateral relations with other countries to prevent the savage ethnic cleansing and violations of international norms.

"Certain Muslim countries, too, have been harmonious with such positions and the formation of the OIC contact group at the UN in New York was based on the same common positions and Islamic solidarity," he added.

He commented that public opinion in the Islamic world is opposed to the inaction of international bodies against the crimes of Serbs and thinks that some type of new apartheid in the West is being formed which unlike the past is not only based on racial discrimination but also includes some sort of belief discrimination and for this reason they have the right to support those who share the same religion with them.

Questioned whether the British Government's allegations that Iran is supporting the Irish Republican Army (IRA) could colour Security Council decisions, he said: "Obviously that is not without relation, because Britain is among the permanent members which has always tried to consider the issue of Bosnia outside of the Security Council and by negotiation between the aggressor and the aggressed. This measure will cause both the lengthening of the time for decision making against the aggressor party and also the loss of many concessions and much human loss for the people of Bosnia- Herzegovina."

The public opinion of the Muslim world has been much aroused due to the deterrent policies of Britain in the Security Council and even NATO against the crimes of Serbs, he added.

"The judgement of Muslims about Britain is that the policy makers in London are the factor responsible for defeating any measure against the Serbs and opposed to any plan that guarantees the rights of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina of which David Owen's plans are some typical examples," said the spokesman.

He said "London's unfounded claims emanate from internal problems and from the weakness to overcome those problems. Therefore, the traditional practice of these countries at the time of internal crisis is to show the foreign relations as being acute and divert the public opinion from the internal situation to the external situation in order to whitewash (internal) problems."

According to Mohammadi another incentive of British authorities for bringing up such false matters is the fruitless efforts of London and Washington for isolating Iran.

"After this much investment we see that the common policy of the United States and Britain has been isolated among Europeans and Japan. Therefore, the propaganda machinery of Britain, simultaneously and awkwardly comes up with the propaganda of Iran having connections with the Irish Republican Army, and the training of Japanese nationals for terrorist operations in Europe.

"The main goal of such propaganda, is to affect the cooperation based on mutual interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran with those countries," he added.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said the London sources know well that the Islamic Republic of Iran is opposed to terrorist operations and violent acts in their various forms, and even cooperates with some countries in the direction of fighting this dangerous phenomena that was created by the West.

Asked to comment on the invitation to Iran for negotiations with the United Arab Emirates [UAE] that was in the communique of the joint session of the U.S. secretary of state and the countries of the Persian Gulf the spokesman said:

"We have always announced our readiness to remove misunderstandings with UAE, without any preconditions, within the framework of the letter of the head of the state of UAE Sheikh Zayed to the president of Iran.

"We consider bilateral talks for strengthening of good neighborly relations and provision of collective interests in the region which has united our security and interests. However, since we believe that outsiders seek their interests in creating unrest in the region and the surfacing of disputes between Muslim states, to involve them in the task of removing misunderstanding will not help solve the problem but it will be in the direction of their filthy intentions."

Asked for latest information about the status of Iranian diplomats kidnapped in Beirut way back in 1982, he said the Foreign Ministry through the Iranian ambassador to Beirut had officially called on the Lebanese Government to precisely consider the fate of the four Iranians, the longest held hostages in Lebanon.

Mohammadi said the measures have been taken in the wake of the arrest of Phalangist militia chief Samir Geagea, and the Lebanese Government, too, has assured to investigate the issue which, he said, is reason for hope on the Iranian side.

Commentary Views Middle East Disarmament Talks

NC0405063994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 4 May 94

[Commentary prepared by News Research and Commentary Group]

[Text] The fifth session of the multilateral talks on the limitation of arms in the Middle East opened in Qatar yesterday. The three-day talks are to be attended by 43 countries, including the Zionist regime, most of the Arab countries, and representatives from the United Nations and the European Union. The topics to be discussed at the session will be the limitation of arms in the Middle East and freeing this area of mass destruction weapons.

The Middle East is one of the areas where a large volume of conventional and nonconventional arms are being stored. A large part of these arms, which are mainly nonconventional, are in the Persian Gulf countries, while another part—consisting of both conventional and nonconventional arms—are stored in Israel. These arms are produced by Western countries, especially the United States, which is creating threats in the region and is thus flooding its arms into this area to free itself from economic bankruptcy and create regional tensions.

What is noteworthy in this session is the Zionist regime's participation. It is said that this regime has more than 200 nuclear warheads plus advanced non-nuclear weapons. Also, the Zionist regime has not joined the Nuclear Nonproliferation Pact and the Disarmament Pact, which most countries have accepted. The Arab countries in the Persian Gulf also carry out one-fifth of the world's arms transactions, and one-fourth of their oil income goes to buy these arms.

Thus, even though disarmament is a favorable issue in principle, speaking about disarmament will be meaningless in view of the increasing trend of arms production and arms purchases, both by the Arab countries and by Israel, and one cannot speak of disarmament while increasing arms purchases.

Meanwhile, the non-Middle East countries participating in this conference are countries who enjoy large incomes from arms sales. Thus, in drawing a logical conclusion it is impossible to have a positive outcome from two negative points.

Thus, the convening of the Middle East peace conference [as heard], which has caused heated arguments in the Arab and Western mass media, can only be a mask covering the illogical steps made by the participants in the arms conference. Israel is benefiting from all this both by covering up the arms it manufactures and by portraying its participation as a gesture of goodwill toward the Arab countries to consolidate the Middle East peace process.

Israel Gaining 'Foothold' in Gulf Region

NC0205150694 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 24 Apr 94 p 2

[Commentary by Hoseyn Qasemi: "From Tel Aviv to Muscat"]

[Excerpts] The three-day meeting on water in the Middle East, which was held from 17 April at the Muscat Intercontinental Hotel with the participation of 44 delegations, included a high-level Israeli delegation. When it concluded, political observers described it as more of a political meeting than a technical one. This is because for the first time the despotic regime of Palestine was permitted to participate in an intraregional conference held in one of the Persian Gulf countries. This broke the traditional boundaries between the said regime and the conservative Arabs of the region.

The Omanis do not seem very pleased with such an appraisal by political observers, because they sought to project the invitation for Israel to participate in the Muscat session as being within the framework of "a specialized task and to use that regime's experiences with regard to water use and nothing else." However, in a calculated move the Israelis sent their deputy foreign minister, Yosi Beilin—who is known for participating in covert talks—as head of the delegation, along with 19 correspondents.

These preliminary actions indicate that although the topic of the meeting is water, this was merely a pretext for implementing a political purpose. Thus, Beilin's mission can be construed as part of the moves known as "confidence-building measures" in order to create a psychological atmosphere in the Persian Gulf region. [passage omitted]

Perhaps at first glance the connection between the long-standing intention of the usurpers of Jerusalem to dominate the area from the Nile to the Euphrates and the holding of this conference on water may not seem very clear. However, if we think about it deeply we will see that they are steps in the same direction. This is because, with the Jewish government gaining a foothold in the Persian Gulf region and access to the markets and economies of the shaykhdoms in this region, this entity and its territorial covetousness can get a desired show case. Thus, in a way it can have the reins of the Arab reactionaries from the land of the Nile to the shores of the Euphrates at its disposal.

The reactionary Arab shaykhs and rulers are fully aware that the breeding and multiplication of an evil spore such as Israel in the region will naturally pave the way for the infiltration of neocolonialism, the forerunners of which imposed that old Methuselah called colonialism on the people of the region in bygone centuries and in this century too.

However, the real loser in this imbalance will be the same shaykhs and rulers who have been exposed by the Islamic awakening and who see their hereditary governments being swept away by the wind. The Islamic awakening will wipe out this neocolonialism when it comes into the arena with its sword, and it is here that yet another intifadah will emerge.

Hajj Rally Opponents 'Not Proper Muslims'

LD0305151994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 3 May 94

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Hajj is the meeting point of a large gathering of Muslim ummah from all parts of the world in a place of worship, full of devotion, and to secure the true identity and sublime human and divine position. Hajj pilgrimage means being liberated from oneself and joining good. Stepping over whims and desires, climbing the summit, the knowledge, and cleansing the soul from all pollution and adorning it with all kinds of beauties [passage omitted]

Alongside religious and worship proportions, hajj rituals also seek to explore and examine the problems and difficulties of the Islamic community in various political and social areas and to talk out plans to counter the enemies of Islam. Those involved in the administration of the Islamic communities, along with religious scholars and leaders, come together with all parts of the world in hajj rituals. While renewing their pledge of Islamic brotherhood, they embark upon deliberation and discussion to find appropriate and comprehensive solutions to the problems of the Islamic community, thus boosting international Islamic relations and levelling the ground for ever greater unity and solidarity in the world of Islam.

Meanwhile, the important point is the gathering of the world Muslims in the ceremonies of deliverance from infidels, which enjoys special status and importance in hajj rituals. Deliverance from infidels is a divine tradition, whose performance is rated as one of the important obligations of hajj pilgrims. During these ceremonies, the Muslims come together and publicly voice their detestation towards the polytheists and the oppressors throughout the world.

The fear of the anti-Islamic statesmen encountering this Islamic tradition lies in the fact that this act is considered as the political spirit of hajj rituals; and it is indeed so. The world hegemonist powers always seek to encourage the Muslims to center their attention merely on the religious and individual aspects of the religion of Islam and constantly attempt to reject the political dimension of Islam as null and void. However, as it is inferred and understood from the Islamic knowledge and also from the history of advent of Islam, the religion of Islam is intertwined with politics, and those Muslims who fail to take into consideration various aspects and dimensions of their faith are not proper Muslims from the Islamic point of view. Hence, the real and concrete hajj is the hajj all of whose rituals, including declaration of deliverance from infidels, are fulfilled properly.

President Warns of 'Ossification' of Revolution

LD0205125694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 2 May 94

[Excerpt] As you heard earlier in the bulletin, ceremonies were held this morning, in the presence of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in Tehran's Hoseyniyeh-ye Ershad [prayer center in northern Tehran] to mark the 15th anniversary of the martyrdom of the eminent Professor Ayatollah Motahhari and in commemoration of all teachers. Let me draw your attention to a detailed report about the president's remarks in this ceremony.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed that the issue of a dynamic theology [ejtehad-e zendeh] and a correspondence [entebaq] between Islam and the demands of the day, an issue which was first raised by martyr Motahhari, is one of the most fundamental bases and most important jurisprudential criteria required in today's society.

According to our correspondent, the president explained: The danger of ossification still threatens the Islamic revolution. Thinkers and knowledgeable people have the duty to clarify further for today's humanity the question of the balance [tavazon] between rationality and the divine Shari'ah as the basis of the reasoning underlying our revolution's progress. This task requires courageous and strong thinkers who can present pure Islam without fear.

The president added: Fatwas [religious edicts] and strong jurisprudential [feqhi] principles based on the requirements of the day are the object of concern of Islamic law-making. The fact that the Islamic revolution has remained upright and strong in the face of the most powerful enemies and is continuing its eternal life is due to the firmness of its ideological pillars and the correctness of its foundations and, consequently, to the correspondence of its principles to the requirements of the time.

He said: The Islamic government has now given a good form to our society and it has proven, by denying the idea of the incompatability between the principles of Islamic jurisprudence and the circumstances of the time and the advances made by today's civilization, that it is one of the most successful revolutions of the world.

In his remarks about the issue of the corresspondence between Islam and the requirements of the day, Mr. Rafsanjani stressed the importance of distinguishing these requirements on the basis of Islamic expertise and by qualified and knowledgeable people. [passage omitted noting Rafsanjani praised the late Motahhari and all teachers]

Official Explains Recent Arrests

NC0105115594 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 26 Apr 94 pp 1, 2

["Text" of "exclusive" interview with Musavi-Nezhad, director general of internal security at the Information Ministry, by unidentified IRNA correspondent; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] The director general for internal security at the Information Ministry Musavi-Nezhad participated in an exclusive interview with the IRNA correspondent and answered questions on some terrorist actions inside Iran. The text is as follows:

[IRNA] What are the results of the follow-up by the Information Ministry regarding the assassination attempt against the acting Mashhad Friday imam, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Aba'i?

[Musavi-Nezhad] On 22 April Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin was attacked by an armed person from among those praying after the Friday prayers ended. An investigation revealed that the assailant was named 'Ali Huri Papi, from Haft Tappeh in Khuzestan Province, who had joined the Monafeqin [meaning hypocrites—pejorative term for Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, MKO] and had managed to acquire a Makarov through some common acquaintances. The Monafeqin continue their armed terrorist actions because of their inherent nature, as they have not evolved a definite political form. [passage omitted on previous MKO operations].

[IRNA] Where did the arrest of Sa'idi-Sirjani—the well-known writer of the idolatrous [shah's] era take place? Could you give us some details of the inquiry that has taken place and its outcome?

[Musavi-Nezhad] Sa'idi-Sirjani was arrested along with another person Mohammad Sadeq Sa'id, alias Niaz Kermani. He was traced to a network of drugs and immorality and was arrested by the antidrug officials.

Both have confessed to their guilt. However, after an investigation into their past records, Sa'idi and Niaz Kermani were found to have links and collaboration with the SAVAK and were handed over to the Information Ministry.

According to the SAVAK documents, Sa'idi-Sirjani has a shady past and was mentioned in these documents as one who had been reporting about revolutionary and combatant elements to the SAVAK. In a letter in 1348 [year beginning 21 March 1969] written to the SAVAK, he clearly admitted to writing in favor of the shah's regime and of cooperating with the SAVAK. There is also evidence of his links with foreign intelligence services.

Niaz Kermani was also a SAVAK official and continued his links with the covert network of SAVAK elements even after the victory of the revolution. For quite some time, he has been living in hiding since the discovery of a coupist network [not further identified]. Both the accused have admitted to the following charges in the interrogation:

1. The transport, distribution, and use of narcotics and inducting new members into the network in Kerman and Tehran by means of clandestine agreements according to which the drugs were delivered to them.

2. The production, storage, and distribution of alcoholic beverages.

3. Indulging in immoral, obscene, and homosexual orgies codenamed "Kashk va bademjan" [literally dried curds and eggplant].

4. Links with the network of former SAVAK officials involved in the Nowzheh coup attempt, planting bombs, and membership in the espionage network of the Rafizadeh brothers in the United States.

5. Receiving considerable sums in foreign exchange from the counterrevolutionary networks based in the United States and Europe and foreign remittances which were deposited in Sa'idi-Sirjani's accounts in the United States and Britain.

[IRNA] At the conclusion of the interview, the director general for internal security of the Information Ministry clarified that the inquiries are continuing in order to identify their internal and external links. The outcome of this inquiry will be divulged at a later date.

Foreign Exchange Body Seeks To Stabilize Rial

LD0405101794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] This morning the Foreign Exchange Market Committee held a session chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. According to a Central News Unit report at the session a report was submitted to the president on the latest developments on Iran's outstanding debts and the successes achieved.

Owing to the country's foreign currency reserves situation it was decided that, to fight the corruption perpetrated by foreign currency dealers and to stabilize the exchange rate, in addition to providing foreign currency for [the import of] goods which qualify for official bank rates, the banking system will provide, at 50 rials below open market rates, all the foreign currency required by importers who have registered, or will register, at the Commerce Ministry to import in return for export. The banking system will also purchase the foreign currencies earned from exports, if the exporters are willing, at the same rate. A Central Bank statement will be issued on this soon.

IRNA Releases Trade Statistics

LD0305215894 Tehran IRNA in English 2118 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 3, IRNA—Some 17.61 million tons of non-oil commodities were imported into Iran over the past 12 months.

91 percent were exported [as received] through ports, while the rest were exported through land routes.

The goods included 10.5 million tons of non-basic and 7.1 million tons of basic goods. 98 percent of the goods were imported through land, and the remaining two percent through land routes.

According to public relations department of Roads and Transportation Ministry a total of 15.2 million tons of goods were loaded within the period which included 6.4 million tons of basic and 8.8 million tons of non-basic commodities.

Ports Organization Head on Nowshahr Facilities

NC0405062294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] The Ports and Navigation Organization [PNO] of the Islamic Republic of Iran is to reduce docking tarriffs at Nowshahr Port by 10 percent from 22 May to 20 March 1995 to expand trade with Central Asian countries and to encourage exporters. This was stated by the deputy minister of roads and transportation and PNO head in an interview with our correspondent yesterday. He said that Nowshahr's loading capacity has been increased and is about 1.5 million tonnes.

Commenting on the facilities extended for the transport of goods at Nowshahr Port, he said:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified PNO head] In 1372 [year ending 20 March 1994] we allocated more than 3 billion rials there to create a trade port for the imports and exports of Central Asian countries. As our dear people know, this port is the closest one to the capital, about 200 km away. Last year the port was equipped with high tonnage forklifts of 60, 45, and 35 tonnes. One of the problems that this port faced was the bridges on the Tehran-Nowshahr highway, which trucks carrying high tonnage cargo could not pass. Also, transportation costs on this route were double the costs of other routes. But fortunately, with the repair and strengthening of these bridges, they are now ready for high-tonnage trucks. This will also help to decrease transportation costs by 50 percent. [end recording]

Council Issues Warning on Energy Consumption

LD0205120794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] The country's Scientific Research Council warned today that the irregular increase in the consumption of oil products and energy waste will threaten our country's oil exports and create more problems for the country's oil-related income over the next decade.

According to our correspondent's report, the Scientific Research Council's energy committee today issued a report entitled "Perspectives of Energy Research in the Islamic Republic of Iran" at a seminar in which lecturers, researchers, and the country's executive officials in the energy sector were present. The report says: It is estimated that our country consumes more than one million barrels of oil each day. Even with the present low oil prices, the country is consuming around $5 billion worth of oil each year. That makes the need to rationalize our country's energy consumption, to develop consumption patterns, and to expand research into energy saving unavoidable .

The secretary of the state Scientific Research Council's energy committee also said: If the country's present trend of energy consumption continues, we will need to build a new refinery each year and that would cost a yearly investment of more than $1.5 billion. He added: Savings of 5.5 percent in energy consumption is realistic and can reduce foreign currency expenditure equivalent to $1.5 billion for investment in refining oil.

Pakistan

Intermittent Sniper Fire Reported in Karachi; 2 Killed

BK0305160094 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] Reports of intermittent sniper firing have been received from Liaqatabad, Khwaja Ajmer Nagri, New Karachi and Gulbahar areas of Karachi Central district. Nine people suffered gunshot injuries. Public transport has been affected, and shops are closed in the Karachi central district. Earlier, two persons succumbed to their injuries. Authorities have imposed Section 144 in the Karachi East district and banned the assembly of more than five people and the carrying of passengers on motorcycles. Reports of gunfire have also been reported from (?several) areas of Hyderabad. Contingents of police and law enforcement authorities are patrolling the affected areas. The district magistrate of Hyderabad in a press note has said that one person was killed and one injured in an incident involving gunfire in village No. 7 of Hyderabad [words indistinct]. A case has been filed, and investigations have begun. Two suspects have been arrested.

Army Deployed To Help Situation

BK0405025894 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] According to a press note issued by the Karachi Central District magistrate last night, one person was killed and 11 injured in various violent incidents in the district yesterday. The press note says that after four days of continuous violent incidents the Army has been deployed in Karachi Central District to assist the civil administration in bringing the law and order problem under control and to prevent the situation from deteriorating further. Workers belonging to Muhajir Qaumi Movement-Altaf group and miscreants disturbed the law and order situation in Liaqatabad, Gulbahar, Nazimabad, (Nazam Chowringhee), and New Karachi. Twenty persons have been arrested.

According to a press note issued by the district magistrate in Hyderabad last night, several miscreants tried to set ablaze a vehicle on Lajpat Road and another in (Faqirkappur) yesterday. However, the police controlled the situation in both places. There are no reports of any deaths or injuries and the overall situation in Hyderabad is under control.

President Urges Government-Opposition Cooperation

BK0405023694 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] President Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said that the government and the opposition have to play an important role by cooperating with each other to solve national problems and to promote democratic values. He was talking to reporters after presiding over a convocation of Jamia Khuddamuddin in Lahore this afternoon. The president stressed the need for a national consensus on important matters like Kashmir and nuclear issue. He expressed regret over the violent incidents in Karachi and asked people not to let the matter exceed the limit. He asked Muhajir Qaumi Movement leader Altaf Hussain to prevent his workers from being involved in violence and emphasized that peace is very essential to create integrity among various sections of the people. The president said that Karachi is a home of Muhajirs, Balochs, Sindhis, Pashtuns, and Punjabis. He urged all sections of the society to pursue the principles of peace, integrity, love, and brotherliness. Earlier, addressing the convocation function, the president asked people to seek guidance from the holy Koran. He regretted that the country, acquired in the name of Islam, is lagging behind in the education of science and technology.

President Confers Military Award on Turkish General

BK0405020794 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] The president, Mr. Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, conferred Nishan-i-Imtiaz, military, on Commander of Turkish land forces, General Ismail Hakki Karadayi, in Islamabad today. Gen. Ismail Hakki called on the president and discussed matters of bilateral interest. Issues regarding regional situation also came under discussion. Later, in an impressive investiture ceremony, the president decorated Gen. Ismail Hakki Karadayi with Nishan-i-Imtiaz, military. The award was conferred on the Turkish general for his meritorious services in enhancement of professional cooperation between the land forces of the two brotherly Muslim countries. The ceremony was attended among others by chief of the Army Staff, General Abdul Waheed; Chief of General Staff, Lieutenant Gen. Farrukh Khan; Corps Commander, Lieutenant Gen. Ghulam Mohammad Malik; and other senior civil and military officers.

Air Force Chief Interviewed on F-16's, Defense Readiness

BK0305124094 Lahore JANG in Urdu 22 Apr 94 pp 1, 14

["Exclusive interview" with Air Chief Marshal Farooq Feroze Khan, chief of the Pakistan Air Force, by unidentified correspondents at the Air Headquarters in Chaklala; date not given]

[Text] [JANG] The F-16 planes have become a part of our people's psychology. Pictures of these aircraft can even be seen pasted on rickshaws and pushcarts. Is it true that our Air Force will become weak if we do not get the F-16's?

[Khan] The people themselves have raised the bogey of the F- 16's, and certain circles have tried to spread the word that if the F-16's are not received it would be a disaster. The truth is that if the F-16's are delivered, it will be good; if they are not, we can acquire alternative planes without any problem.

[JANG] We have been hearing about the alternative planes for a long time now. Much has been said about the Mirage 2000, Su-27, and MiG-29, but no agreement has been finalized for alternative aircraft. Why?

[Khan] We should not make any hasty decisions regarding the F-16's. In any case, if we do not receive the F-16's we have other options. We can acquire planes from France or Russia, but there must not be public debate on the acquisition of the alternative planes. The government has thus far not imposed any decision on us about the purchase of the new aircraft. The government never told us which plane to buy and which one not to. Air Force experts are analyzing every aspect of our requirements and selecting the new aircraft. This is not a decision that can be made in one day. We have to select an alternative plane that can be used for at least 20-25 years.

[JANG] Has any progress been made on the purchasing the Mirage 2000-5 planes?

[Khan] The Mirage 2000-5 has just rolled out of the factory. It still has to progress from infancy to adulthood. If we conclude an agreement today to purchase the Mirage 2000-5 planes, we will not be able to receive these aircraft for three to four years. Therefore, I am examining the possibility of buying planes that can be delivered and inducted into our Air Force immediately.

[JANG] The U.S. signal is very clear that we will have to choose either the nuclear program or the F-16's. What are the prospects for acquiring the F-16's given this situation?

[Khan] We all agree with the government's stand on this issue. In our view, the nuclear program and the F-16's are two different issues and cannot be linked. There should be separate discussions on these two separate issues. We have already made it crystal clear that the nuclear program cannot be sacrificed for the F-16's. We cannot give what we are being asked to in return for the F-16's; that is why I had stated that I do not see the F-16 question being resolved soon, and perhaps not even this year. The PAF's [Pakistan Air Force] stand is that the F-16's are good, but we can get by without them. The PAF is not dependent on them.

[JANG] Would you please say something about the threats facing our country's defense? What are the threats and what preparations have been made to counter them?

[Khan] None of us wants war. War breaks out when diplomacy fails. Currently, by the grace of God, our diplomacy is proving very successful, but our threat perception has increased because of the Kashmir situation. If a war is imposed on us against our wishes, we are confident we have the full capability to defend the motherland's airspace. We will demonstrate our full professional capability in the event of aggression.

[JANG] But certain elements try to scare us with the large number of planes India has.

[Khan] We will not play the numbers game. It will not be a numbers game, because our professional training is very realistic. If India commits an aggression, it will have to beat a retreat under all circumstances.

The air defense of the Kahuta plant is in strong hands. We have the appropriate means to counter those who may cast an evil eye on the Kahuta plant's airspace. Had security around Kahuta not been appropriate, it would have already been attacked by now. The fact that nobody had succeeded in advancing toward Kahuta proves that it is not only the air defense that is strong; due attention is also being paid to Kahuta's ground defenses.

[JANG] Certain circles have alleged in the media that commissions are demanded while purchasing new planes. To what extent are these allegations true?

[Khan] The Air Force's work is to select the plane. Our experts only advise which planes will be suitable for the PAF. The Air Force only gives its opinion at the technical stage. Those who know how planes are purchased could never think of such baseless things.

[JANG] How has the vacuum created by the expiration of the lease on the U.S. T-37 trainer aircraft been filled?

[Khan] We have readjusted our training requirements. We have also signed an agreement with China for the K-8 aircraft.

General Assesses Development of Nuclear Program

BK0405090194 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 23 Apr 94 p 6

[Article by General (Retd) Mirza Azlam Beg: "Who Will Press the Button?"]

[Text] When I became the Vice Chief of the Army Staff, I was made privy to the nuclear programme and also responsible for the Pakistan Army. What I saw on the ground and based on it I gave the statement that Pakistan had acquired nuclear capability in 1987 and not in 1990. However, for three years, from 1987 to 1989, the US President continued to certify that Pakistan had not acquired nuclear capability, which was contrary to what was stated in a report by Richard Barlow, an American responsible for monitoring our programme in Islamabad, even though, I am sure they must have read it. Pakistan in those days had importance due to the Afghan problem, the Russians were in Afghanistan, and the Americans needed Pakistan and thus a certification had to be given that Pakistan had not acquired the capability, whereas the fact was that we had.

In 1989 when Russia withdrew from Afghanistan, Pakistan ceased to be of importance to the US and thus Richard Barlow's Report became valid. Robert Oakley, the US Ambassador in Pakistan declared that Pakistan had crossed the red line, and consequently all the trouble started. It was also in early 1990 that an uprising erupted in occupied Kashmir against India. This resulted in creating tension and the relations between the two countries became very strained. India was at a disadvantage as it had not expected an uprising in Kashmir. To divert attention, it tried to cash in on the tension between India and Pakistan and projected to the world that Pakistan, having acquired nuclear capability, was preparing to launch a nuclear attack against India. This created a commotion and the US took certain steps in a attempt to curb Pakistan.

The first step was to send Robert Gates to Pakistan. This was during the first tenure of Benazir Bhutto. Upon his arrival we had a meeting, and I clearly told him that they were talking about something which just did not exist on the ground. I pointed out that was definite tension between India and Pakistan between what was happening and what had been happening in the valley, and with the troops on the Line of Control in Kashmir. The hotline between GHQs of India and Pakistan had been fully functional, every second of the day. We were in conversation with them knowing exactly what was happening without even going to the second stage of tension, which leads to a state of conflict between the two countries i.e., deployment of conventional forces.

The US had reached the conclusion that Pakistan was preparing for a nuclear attack on India on the basis of pictures circulated via satellite, showing troop loads of material from Kahuta moving outwards, F-16s from various bases being placed at suitable air bases for striking India, and activity in and around Quetta where they thought there were some nuclear facilities which Pakistan had created. Thus painting a picture as if Pakistan was ready to strike India.

What needs to be understood here is the motive behind creating this false image of Pakistan by the Indian lobby. Firstly, it was to divert attention of the world from Kashmir, because if there is a possibility of a nuclear holocaust in the subcontinent naturally everyone will forget about what is happening in Kashmir and all attention will be directed towards this major issue.

The ground realities are that in 1989, immediately after Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto took over, a meeting of the National Nuclear Command Authority (NNCA) was held. The NNCA was established by late Mr Bhutto when he first initiated the programme, and he became the chairman, being the chief executive. Later on Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, the Chief of the Army Staff and three other people who are involved with the programme formed the Nuclear Command Committee,

This committee formulates all the policies. In January 1989 under the then president this committee met, the prime minister was there, I was there and having analysed the problems in detail we thought that there was a need to adopt a policy of restraint to limit our nuclear programme. Because we thought that Pakistan had acquired the maximum deterrence level that is needed to avert the threat that we perceived, and it could also quantify, for example the correlation of forces between India and Pakistan, i.e., conventional forces.

Therefore, having reached the minimum deterrence level, the committee took a decision to limit one aspect of the programme which was uranium enrichment. If uranium is enriched to the maximum level of 95 per cent and above it becomes weapon-grade uranium. As there was no requirement of going beyond three to five per cent which is the level needed for our Kanup [Karachi Nuclear Power] plant, from the time this decision was taken, i.e. January 1989, Pakistan has been only carrying out enrichment up to three to five per cent.

Whereas the other processes, i.e. the R&D for the development of the device and its refinement and development of the delivery system and refinement of the system, the test that has to be carried out in the lab and finally the safety measures for the security that have to be undertaken to ensure that there is no mismanagement are continuing.

Thus, the management, control, and safeguard measures are the responsibility of the National Nuclear Command Authority. Its job was and continues to be to institutionalise policy making and to determine the capability and the criteria as to what capability level we have to acquire. This authority also determines the state of readiness which has to be maintained at all times. By a state of readiness, I mean the device integration that has to be achieved because the device contains so many different items, consequently the preparation of all those items, then the ability to put them together and have a device ready when needed. This is an important decision. Related to this is the delivery system development, which somebody said can be catapulted. I am sorry, it cannot be catapulted.

It is a highly technical system and it has to be tested from time to time on computers and in the lab before you can really go in the field and carry out a real hot test. The delivery system, therefore, has to be developed. We already have the F-16s, Mirages and the M-11s which we are now getting from China that can carry, but there had been a problem in the past. Then through the missile programme, which I am sure they have continued with, we should have a delivery system with a very effective, accurate, guiding system, provided on the missiles.

There have been doubts about the designation of responsibility both with the country and outside. I would like to make it very clear that the NNCA is very definite in its mind and has very clearly designated the responsibility to joint operations centre (JOC), which is maintained in the Joint Staff Head Quarters in Rawalpindi which commands all the three services during war. The JOC is the first one to be given orders when it comes to deployment and utilisation of this capability. And, of course, the orders are then passed on to the other three services which are to take action, particularly the Army and the Air Force, as these agencies are involved in the development of the device.

With regard to safeguard and security measures, because of its sensitivity, foolproof methods have to be adopted for security of the whole system. The authority also lays down in great detail the policy of how the various components will be place, protected, and safeguarded. There are technical and procedural measures which are adopted to ensure that no mistakes are made. These procedures and technicalities are devised by NNCA, as they are a highly guarded secret. Therefore, to the best of our ability, we have developed technical and procedural measures to safeguard and provide safety to the material. This has been the case from the very first day the programme started.

There has to be a political chain of command. It was there, it has been there and continues to be there till today. The military chain of command starts from below where it is at the receiving end and carries out instructions as received from the political authority. The person who has the hand on the button is the chief executive. But the term "chief executive" has undergone several changes. When Mr Bhutto was alive, he had his hand on the button. when Gen. Ziaul Haq came to power, his hand was on the button and after him Ms Benazir Bhutto and so on.

The question is, now that we have acquired this capability what do we gain from it. In this context, I would like to read two statements. The first one I quote: "Pakistan's possession of Nuclear Weapons makes a large Indian conventional edge unexploitable. "The conventional edge implies the correction of forces, in which the Indian Army is three times, the Air Force five times and Navy ten times that of Pakistan's. They cannot exploit this situation because Pakistan possesses nuclear weapons. This is the first advantage that we have gained. And this is something that a former Indian Army Chief Sunderjeet admits in his statement, "On balance one may conclude that in a general low level symmetry between India and Pakistan a substantial degree of nuclear stability exists."

The fact is that if today there is stability, it is due to the possession of nuclear capability by both sides. I can count many advantages. It certainly has reduced the possibility of war. Although the option of going to war is not with the weaker but with the stronger one, but as the stronger's options are limited due to the possession of the nuclear weapon, therefore, India just cannot unleash its conventional weapons against Pakistan. That makes the possibility of war between India and Pakistan much less.

The question of cost effectiveness has been raised, which is something very surprising. When our project was at its peak in 1985, 1986, 1987 the annual budget of Kahuta programme was less than the cost of one F-16. We paid about 28 million dollars per aircraft as against 18 million dollars, the actual cost, because we got it out of turn and we had to pay 10 million dollars extra for every aircraft. I am, therefore, talking of 18 million dollars and I say on good authority that the cost of one year's budget programme of Kahuta Laboratory is less than the cost of one single F-16 aircraft.

And from the time we received these F-16s, I think we have lost four or five of them and are left with only 34 or 35. So if somebody is thinking exchanging our nuclear programme with the F-16s—38 of them—I am sure he is not aware of this reality.

Another advantage that Pakistan has in possessing a nuclear weapon is that India cannot indulge in nuclear blackmail against Pakistan since we have a meaningful capability. We took a decision, a policy of restraint as we thought that since we had reached the minimum deterrence level, we did not have to go beyond it. But it must be remembered that limiting enrichment of uranium does not cap your nuclear programme. If you are carrying out the enrichment of uranium up to five per cent, to take it to 20 per cent, perhaps you need about a week's time. If from 20 per cent, you want to take it to 95 per cent another 10 days or so will be required only. Thus, within 15 days, if you want you can just raise the level to 95 per cent and you will be producing weapon-grade uranium.

This should make the difference apparent. First they were talking of rolling back, now they want Pakistan to cap its programme. This is a very major decision which Pakistan has to take, but in my judgement if it comes to that, and if there are great many advantages, then it has to be a move in symmetry with what India is doing. It has to be a simultaneous action guaranteed by the powers and thus bring Pakistan and India to understand the logic to cap their programme. They do not want us to roll back which is a big change, and I think if India agrees, Pakistan may decide to cap its programme.

Editorial Urges Strengthening of Navy

BK0305152794 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 3 May 94 p 10

[Editorial: "Buying New Submarines for the Navy"]

[Text] The Pakistan Navy's annual naval exercises, "Shamshir (?Bahr-e-Awwal)," have begun in the Arabian Sea. Spread over two phases, the exercises involve Pakistan Navy destroyers, submarines, missile carriers, oil and supply vessels, military aircraft, helicopters, and ground units. Following the first phase, exercises will be held in the open sea.

These types of exercises are essential in assessing the performance of the armed forces during peacetime, especially in a situation where the future intentions of our neighbor India—which has embarked on aggression against Pakistan twice in the past—do not seem that good. India is persistently pursuing a naval buildup. Not only is the Indian Navy several times bigger than the Pakistan Navy, it also possess a nuclear submarine force. India dreams of becoming a regional superpower. Therefore, the Pakistan Navy needs to be equipped with more powerful and modern weapons so we will not have to hope for the arrival of any fleet in the Indian Ocean, as we did during the 1971 war.

Chinese, Swedish, and French offers for the sale of three new submarines are now under consideration by the Pakistani Government, but the Defense Ministry has yet to make any decision on them. A delegation of Swedish military authorities is currently visiting Pakistan along with a naval ship. The delegation will brief Pakistan Navy authorities on the new Swedish T-96 submarines. The Swedish offer includes full funding and complete transfer of technology. France also wants to transfer technology. Its submarines also possess destructive power. China is a friendly country, but it does not have modern technology. It is hoped that the Defense Ministry will keep national interests in view and make a decision, so that the goal of equipping the Navy with the most modern weapons and equipment can be achieved in the shortest possible time.

The military buildup currently being pursued by India is definitely a matter of concern for Pakistan and other small countries in the region. Poverty in India is more intense than in Pakistan. Its population, already 10 times bigger than that of Pakistan, is growing rapidly. What is strange is that instead of taking steps to alleviate the suffering and poverty of its masses, the Indian leadership is spending more money on military preparations. In fact, the Indian leaders consider themselves the successors to British rule. Not only do they want to establish their hegemony in this region, they want to maintain it by increasing their weaponry and military might.

Pakistan is undoubtedly a developing country. Its people are backward; therefore more funds need to be spent on their economic development. It is a fact, however, that Pakistan spends comparatively less on defense than India. Pakistan cannot disregard its defense. India's aggressive seizure of Kashmir and its atrocities against unarmed Kashmiris pose a great danger to peace in South Asia.

The big powers should realize the threat posed by India's increasing military might and the danger the countries of the region are facing, including Pakistan. The Indian threat to peace in South Asia is always increasing.

Given India's already formidable military power and its ever-increasing additions to it, Pakistan cannot curtail its defense budget. India's military strength is a permanent threat to Pakistan's security and defense.

The Pakistan Government has justifiably decided to increase its defense budget, matching the increase in India's defense budget and buildup. In this context, the government has also decided to curtail governmental expenditures. Authorities say that taxes and revenues amounting to 180 billion rupees will be collected before the budget so as to reduce the budget deficit. The government has also directed that few taxes be imposed in the budget. It is hoped that the government's steps will yield gratifying results.

Nepalese Minister Urges Peaceful Kashmir Resolution

BK0405085094 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0600 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Nepal has called for a peaceful resolution to the Kashmir issue. The call was made by Nepalese Law Minister Maheswor Prasad Singh while speaking to newsmen in Islamabad before his departure for Karachi this morning. He said Nepal wants the resolution of all issues, including Kashmir, in accordance with the spirit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. This is the reason his country is making efforts to politically resolve the refugee problem with Bhutan. He said his country wants to promote ties with Pakistan in all sectors, including trade. The delegation was seen off by Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Syed Iqbal Haider.

Sindh Chief Expresses Commitment To Eliminate 'Terrorism'

BK0405022494 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] Sindh Chief Minister Syed Abdullah Shah has said that the government is committed to eliminating all sorts of terrorism and violence from the country's politics and to bring about normalcy in the province. In a broadcast over the radio and television a short while ago, he referred to the violence carried out in Karachi and Hyderabad which is masterminded by of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] and said that it exposed their nefarious designs. They want to see Pakistan economically weak. The chief minister said that these people, at the behest of their foreign masters, want to divide not only Sindh but the country, too. The Sindh chief minister said that the MQM extremists are demanding the withdrawal of cases against its chief Altaf Hussain which had been filed by their allies themselves during the rule of the previous government. He asked why Altaf Hussain should fear facing the court and demand the withdrawal of the cases. He said that these elements through their violent activities are harming their own brethren and damaging national properties. The chief minister said that although there is no substitute to precious human lives, however, the government will pay compensation to families of those killed in these incidents. Similarly, he told the people whose vehicles were burned during the incident to submit their applications.